

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1991-1992 8672

7587 SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE

Denali Center 1949 Gilliam Way Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 Diane Lingle, R.N.	#10
Alaska Home Health Care Agency Kodiak Branch Office 305 Center Ave P.O. Box 4010 Kodiak, Alaska 99615 Contact: Joan Minks, RN	#11
University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus Pouch 400 Nome, Alaska 99762 Contact: Amelia Dickerson	#12
University of Alaska Southeast Juneau Campus 11120 Glacier Campus Juneau, Alaska 99801-8675 Contact: Pat Clevenger, R.N.	#13
Wesley Rehabilitation Care Center P.O. Box 430 431 First Avenue Seward, Alaska 99664 Contact: B.J. Blackwell, R.N.	#14
Older Persons Action Group American Red Cross 325 E. 3rd Avenue Anchorage, Alaska 99501 Contact: Geri Ivy, R.N.	#15
PWSCC & Harborview Development Center P.O. Box 487 Valdez, Alaska Contact: Sarah Matten, R.N.	#16
Alaska Technical Center P.O. Box 51 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752 Contact: Cindy Lincoln, R.N.	#17
Anvil Mountain Correctional Center P.O. Box 730 Nome, Alaska 99762 Jean Rom, Education Associate II	#18

Humana Hospital Alaska #19
P.O. Box 143889
2801 Weharr Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99514
Contact: Elizabeth Blair, R.N.

Petersburg General Hospital #20
and Long Term Care Center
P.O. Box 589
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
Lois DeBoer, R.N. and Phyllis Daniels, R.N.

PWSCC and Cordova Community Hospital LTC #21
P.O. Box 160
Cordova, Alaska 99574
Julie Winton, R.N. ADDN

0192a



NATIONAL
COUNCIL
OF STATE BOARDS OF NURSING, INC.

676 North St. Clair Street
Suite 550
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2921

312 787.6555
FAX 312 787.6898

Addendum F

May 13, 1991

Tina D. DeLapp
University of Alaska Anchorage
3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

RECEIVED
MAY 13 1991
Division of Occupational Licensing

Dear Ms. DeLapp:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Communications Committee, I am pleased to inform you that the study, "Scope of Practice for Beginning and Experiences LPNs" has been selected for verbal presentation during the 1991 Research Forum to be held in conjunction with the 13th Annual Meeting of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. The Forum is scheduled for Friday, August 1, 1991 from 9 - 10 AM. Since reports will be made on three different projects, plan on having approximately 15 - 20 minutes for your presentation, including time for questions.

Enclosed is a copy of the Cover Page you previously submitted. Please review this carefully and either confirm that all study titles, presenter's names, equipment requests, and other information is correct or make the necessary corrections. Sign the form and return it to my attention by June 17, 1991. I also need to remind you that all travel and per diem expenses incurred in relation to your participation in this activity can not be underwritten by the National Council

We look forward to hearing your presentation. If you have any questions please call me at 1-312-787-6555.

Sincerely,

Carolyn J. Yocom, Ph.D., R.N.
Director of Research Services

cc: Alaska Board of Nursing

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE BOARDS OF NURSING

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

JULY 30 - AUGUST 2, 1991

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

COVER PAGE

Name of Member Board: Alaska Board of Nursing

Title of study/project: Scope of Practice for Beginning and Experienced

LPNs

Study/project commissioned by: Alaska Board of Nursing

Study/project conducted by: Tina D. DeLapp, RN, EdD (primary)

with assistance from: Gail McGill, RN, BS (Executive Officer), Gail

Stewart, RN, MS (Board Chairperson), Janet Bunes, RN, BS, Mary

Stroeing, RN, Kathy Hewitt, LPN, Georgann Waskey and Louise Dean (public members)

Presenter(s): Tina D. DeLapp, RN, EdD

For which presentation format do you wish to be considered?

(xx) Paper () Poster () Paper or Poster

What audiovisual equipment will be required if selected for a paper presentation?

(xx) Slide projector () Overhead projector

STATE OF ALASKA

JAN 9 1992

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING

7TH FLOOR FRONTIER BLDG.
3601 C STREET, SUITE 722
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
PHONE: (907) 561-2878

December 31, 1991

Senator Drue Pearce, Chair
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Room 101
P. O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1182

Dear Senator Pearce,

The Alaska Board of Nursing discussed your letter regarding the Sunset Review Legislation and possible options for the Board's future existence at its November 19, 1991 meeting. The Board members support continuation of the Board as an independent Board within Occupational Licensing, not combined with any other regulatory Board. A Board of Nursing made up of registered nurses, practical nurses and consumers has the expertise to handle the variety of nursing issues which must be addressed. Resolution of issues rely on the nursing knowledge of the Board members combined with their concern for public safety which is shared by the consumers.

The Board expressed a number of concerns relating to termination of the Board of Nursing. These concerns relate to the Board's responsibilities for examination of nurses, licensure and discipline of nurses and as important, regulation of schools of nursing. A school of nursing must be Board approved in order for graduates of the program to be eligible for a license by exam in Alaska and a license by endorsement elsewhere in the United States. During the last two years, the Board approved the operation of Everett Community College Associate Degree Nursing Program offered in Ketchikan in order to educate Practical Nurses (LPNs) to become Registered Nurses (RNs) in that city. This program met a unique need in a rural community by allowing the hospital to lessen its nursing shortage by educating practical nurses who had proven work records and were residents of Ketchikan.

The contract Alaska enters into with the National Council State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) for use of the national exam is with the Board of Nursing and requires a Registered Nurse

to be administratively responsible for the security of each exam administered in our State. This national exam is called the National Council Licensure Exam and one is offered for practical nursing and one for registered nursing, each exam being offered twice a year. The contract with NCSBN provides

Alaska the right to give the national nurse licensure exams and to counsel with other jurisdictions on matters related to regulation of nursing practice such as scope of practice, discipline and advanced practice issues. Should Alaska not have a Board of Nursing to regulate nursing practice, it is unlikely that we would continue to be allowed access to the national exam.

While the Board discussed several major issues regarding Board combination, a few are paramount. The first involves the Board's ability to respond to requests for interpretation of scope of practice situations. Many of these questions are handled by the Board's Executive Secretary, a position which requires a registered nurse license. Some, however, require full Board discussion and response. Since nursing science like other health professions has its own body of knowledge, it is inappropriate to ask non nurses to make these scope of practice determinations.

Additionally, there are concerns about shifting the focus from public safety to economics with turf issues arising especially with physicians and nurses in advanced practice. The Nursing Board has successfully regulated advanced nursing practice allowing improved access to care for many Alaskans who otherwise would not have primary health care, while at the same time protecting the public's health and welfare with regard to nursing care. This regulation includes monitoring of scope of practice including specific quality assurance mechanisms and allowing independent prescriptive authority. A joint board of health care professionals would likely be limited in representation of nurses and these issues would not receive the necessary attention needed to assure consumer protection.

A combined Board would require the involvement of at least "expert panels" to provide the expertise to advise the oversight Board on professional standards. This type of structure would increase costs of government regulations and would delay response on many of the important issues addressed by the Board. The Board now acts in a timely and effective manner. A good example of this is the Board's recent completion of a comprehensive guide addressing scope of practice of the practical nurse which was requested by the industry. A review of the enclosed most recent annual report details many of the Board's projects.

The nurse employers rely on the Board's judgment in matters related to discipline, monitoring of nurses in recovery from

chemical dependency and nursing scope of practice. They have learned that the Board plays an important and assistive role when they have a problem with a nurse whether it relates to something like not meeting standards of practice or to a chemically addicted nurse. The Nursing Board has many more years of experience managing the chemically addicted nurse than have other regulatory boards. Employers and nurses have been educated about the procedures for getting nurses into treatment and the Board's monitored aftercare program which protects the public yet allows nurses to safely go back to work. With one in five to one in seven nurses at risk for chemical dependency, the Board is gravely concerned that this program might be lost under a combined system of boards.

The members of the Board are in full agreement that under any circumstances an Executive Secretary position must be maintained. The purpose of this position is evident when one reviews the accomplishments of the Board. The Executive Secretary is essential to the prompt licensing of nurses especially as the nursing shortage continues to affect areas of our state. The Executive Secretary is also responsible for overseeing the licensing and regulation of approximately 5500 licensees. This includes communication with nurses and employers statewide particularly in rural Alaska where the incumbent staff member serves in a consultant role. The Executive Secretary is essential to the functioning of the Board's program for intervening with nurses who are addicted to controlled substances. The Board's goal of returning nurses to the work setting safely and within a reasonable time after the nurse is in recovery is accomplished using Memorandums of Agreement. This staff member provides assistance to the investigators as she is knowledgeable in nursing practice, procedures and issues.

Reports of discussions at the Task Force on Boards and Commissions indicated inaccurate financial information related to the Board's operations. While the Division is responsible for the budget, the Board continually remains aware of the financial picture. I would also like to point out that because of the biennial renewal cycle, revenue must be averaged over the two years. The Board asks for budgetary information annually in order to evaluate the fee structure and will be doing so again at it's next meeting. The Board members themselves show fiscal responsibility by meeting most often in Anchorage which is less expensive and by booking tickets in advance and using lowest available airfares. In November, 1991, the Board hosted a 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Board of Nursing which used no state funds but gained much good will and provided two days of valuable nursing continuing education.

The Board members consider it an honor to serve the state as members of the Nursing Board. They give countless hours of their volunteer time to the Board as they are not compensated except for travel and for per diem when outside of their home community. In addition to the actual meeting times, Board members often have assignments between meetings and they may meet with groups of nurses and/or consumers in their communities. Importantly, the Board members have remained non-partisan and view the professional issues from a consumer safety viewpoint which is something professional associations do not always do.

I hope this information will contribute to the continuation of the Board of Nursing. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at my office at 257-1555 or my home at 345-3996 or contact Gail McGill, Executive Secretary at the above address.

Sincerely,

Gail Stewart

Gail Stewart
Chairperson
Alaska Board of Nursing

1415n/ds

cc: Ann Boudreaux, Director
Occupational Licensing

MAR 12 1992

2138 Churchill Dr
Anchorage, AK 99517

DANIEL A. GERETY
2138 CHURCHILL DRIVE
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

March 2, 1992

Dear Senator Pearce:

I am writing regarding
in support of HB 165 Extension
of the Board of Nursing.

I am opposed to the initiative
to combine the medical, dental,
pharmacy & nursing boards into
a "super board".

To my knowledge most of
the boards are self supporting.
The state is reducing costs.
I have a few suggestions. Each
of the about medical related boards take
great pride in carrying and upholding their
profession. This contact may be necessary
information needed. (Daniel Gerety)

Buey

FEB 7 1992

Gail Stewart
12220 Rainbow
Anchorage, AK 99516

January 29, 1992

Dear Senator Drue Pearce;

Re: HB 165 Sunset of the Board of Nursing

On December 31, 1991 I sent to you the official response from the Board of Nursing to your request from the Governor's Task Force on Boards and Commissions. I would like to give you my personal opinion also.

The Board of Nursing has two main functions: 1. To protect the public and 2. To operate in a cost effective manner.

To Protect the Public

Every license application is reviewed twice for completeness, references, and accuracy. The Executive Secretary gives much personal attention to each applicant, assuring enough flexibility to get the person a license if at all possible while protecting patients and employers from fraud or incompetence.

The Board has established a chemical dependency program for the impaired nurse. The Executive Secretary has done a tremendous job in educating employers and establishing trust with nurses. Both employers and impaired nurses call her requesting advice and assistance. The Board has established Memorandums of Agreements with impaired nurses. These are public record and require close monitoring of the nurse yet have saved the state thousands of dollars in investigations, accusations, and hearings. Other Boards do not agree with our philosophy. I would be saddened to see such a worthwhile program lost if we were combined with another board.

The Board of Nursing has taken a pro-active approach in trying to provide the public with competent, knowledgeable nurses. We audit nurses for continued competency requirements and review nurse practitioners' advance practice. The Board does not wait for calls of complaint but actively attempts to monitor the nurses.

Cost

Has the Board of Nursing operated in a cost effective manner? I believe we have showed fiscal restraint by holding meetings in Anchorage which has cheaper airfares, staying over Saturday nights for lower airfares, and using teleconferences when possible. In the past 4 years, we have met outside of Anchorage twice- in Fairbanks and Soldotna. Both meetings were at the request of the public (which I considered an honor to be requested) and both were done during the off season for less expensive rates. Two years ago the division came to us with dollar figures that showed we were spending much more than we brought in with revenue. The Boards voted to raise license fees.

Gail Stewart
Page 2

Public View

Our meetings have an open forum on every agenda. This forum allows anyone to discuss any topic with the Board, without an appointment, and in an open manner. I feel the Board of Nursing has made genuine efforts to reach out to the public and listen. Our meetings always have community members actively participating.

If I could change anything, it would be to increase the number of public members on the board to 4, require one seat to be a currently employed staff RN in a hospital, one seat to be a nurse educator, and one seat for a nurse in advanced practice.

Other functions of the Board

When UAA was unable to provide nursing programs to rural sites due to budget constraints, the Board carefully and completely reviewed the Everett College Nursing Program to be offered in Ketchikan. This allowed LPN's to upgrade their skills to RN's and kept nurses employed in Alaska. The time this project required may not have been possible if we were to combine with another Board.

The Alaska Board of Nursing is respected throughout the country. Board members travel to present research the Board has done, to explain how our practice act works in providing access to care in rural areas and for the underserved and underinsured. For example-- Gail McGill, Executive Secretary is the Area I Director for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and went to Washington D.C. to present for the AARP Consumer Advocacy Center and the National Rural Health Association; Tina DeLapp RN, EdD is a member of the Practice and Education committee for the National Council, and I went to Kansas City for the National Rural Health Association to present the Alaska nursing rules and regulations and how they provide access to care in rural area. At all of these activities we are representing the State of Alaska and at no cost to the state. These organizations paid our airfares and per diem for our knowledge. This is something in which the State of Alaska should take pride.

If it sounds like I am bragging about the Board of Nursing it is because I am proud of the state, its nursing practice act, and the board. My term expires 3-31-92 and I have considered it an honor to serve this state. I never had the appreciation of Boards of Nursing until I served these 4 years.

I ask you to seriously consider what could be lost if the Board of Nursing was combined with another board. The legislative audit says we are good enough to go for 8 years instead of the usual 4. The ombudsman office only had 1 complaint in 4 years. Somehow, we must be doing something right.

Thank you for your time in reading such a lengthy letter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at work 257-1555 or home 345-3996. I look forward to meeting you February 13 and discuss this and other issues.

Sincerely,

Gail Stewart



FEB 6 1992

Billy

1-29-92

bills HB 165, SR 211

Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1182

Dear Drue:

This is a letter to encourage you to vote yes for the bills HB 165, and SR 211 to endorse the Board of Nursing to have an independent board.

The reasons I feel this should be endorsed are as follows:

- Board of Nursing has proven to provide safety for the public in regards to caring for people in the State of Alaska
- Is very important that we have an independent board so they can follow up on all the applicants in regards to their applications to practice Nursing in the State and also for discipline action if necessary
- There is no way a Super Board could regulate the four thousand plus nurses that are practicing in the State of Alaska and provide safety for the communities

I am the first Family Nurse Practitioner to set up an independent practice in the State of Alaska. The Board of Nursing was there for me and also the public when they had questions about my practice. If the boards are suppose to be in affect for the safety of the public than I see no way this could be possible with a Super Board.

I trust that if concern is for the State you will endorse the fact that the Board of Nursing needs to be independent from any other board. I feel that they need to meet as often as they have in the past years.

Any questions of concerns on my reasons for you supporting bills HB 165, and SB 211 please contact my office at 694-4080.

Sincerely,

Lila McEwen, F.N.P.

LM/js

cc: Governor Hickel

P.O. Box 1035
Palmer, AK 99645-1035
January 29, 1992

Senator Drue Pearce, Chair
~~Senate Labor and Commerce Committee~~
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Pearce:

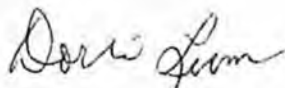
Please offer your support for the passage of HB 165
(extension of the Board of Nursing) out of committee.

The Board of Nursing has provided leadership for the largest group of voting health professionals in Alaska. They take a strong position on self-governance which would be a great loss to the quality of health care services should the nursing board be merged with the boards of other disciplines.

One paid staff member achieves a large volume of results, and has the high respect of the nursing community, not only for adherence to quality standards, but for attentiveness to public input as well.

Please retain the Board of Nursing.

Sincerely,



Doris Lum, RN, C. ANP, MS

FS 7 1992

Billy



Alaska Nurses Association

237 East Third Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 274-0827

... a constituent of American Nurses' Association

February 3, 1992

Senator Drue Pearce
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Pearce:

The Alaska Nurses Association is very concerned that HB 165, which would extend the Board of Nursing for four years, will fail to pass out of the Senate this session and result in the demise of the Board. The Association, which represents professional nurses throughout the state, has wholeheartedly supported the continuation of the Alaska Board of Nursing through the years, most recently at the 1991 Convention held in Sitka. We are very concerned about the many rumors regarding the Board and the future of professional nursing in Alaska. Nursing is an important and complex component of health care, and the Board, through its regulatory functions, lays a sound base upon which the profession builds the high quality of care currently delivered throughout the state. The Association has grave concerns regarding the quality of care and the safety of the public should the Board be terminated or combined with another regulatory board.

Please let us know what the Labor & Commerce Committee plans to do with HB 165. We would be most happy to speak in support of the bill should hearings be scheduled.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Hong, MA, RN, CCRN
President

cc: Senator Virginia Collins

encl: 1991 Resolution regarding the Alaska Board of Nursing



**Alaska
Nurses
Association**

237 East Third Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 274-0827

... a constituent of American Nurses' Association

Resolution No. 5

REGARDING ALASKA BOARD OF NURSING

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has a Sunset Law which requires routine review of all regulatory Boards and Commissions and their termination if no longer functional, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Nursing has existed since 1941 and has undergone its third such review in 1987, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Nursing has received a positive review with a recommendation for continuation of the Board, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Nursing has received public praise for its hard work and effectiveness and has been praised as a model for other Boards, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Nursing has succeeded in accomplishing its objectives of regulating nursing for the protection of the consumer, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Nursing continues to respond to the profession with helpful advice and positions on matters of practice,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Nurses' Association expresses great confidence in the Alaska Board of Nursing and appreciation for its accomplishments for the profession of nursing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Nurses' Association supports continuation of the Board of Nursing.

Submitted by: Barbara Miller

Copy to: Governor Hickel; All Legislators; State Board of Nursing

5 February 1992

Senator Pearce
 Alaska State Legislature
 PO Box 4 (MS 3100)
 Juneau, Alaska 99811

Billy

Dear Senator Pearce,

As you are aware, the Governor has appointed a task force to evaluate all Boards and Commissions. As a result, HB 165, which renews the Alaska Board of Nursing for four years, remains in the Labor + Commerce Committee. If HB 165 is not approved, the Board will cease to exist.

As a registered nurse, I urge you to support HB 165, and vote for full renewal for the Board of Nursing. As one of approximately 5,000 RNs in the state, I know how effective the board has been in implementing the Alaska Nurse Practice Act. The regulations written and approved by the Board are well respected and emulated throughout the country.

The Board has a major role in protecting the public from receiving care from unqualified or impaired nurses. The present structure allows for rapid, unbiased investigation and fair disciplinary action. A board

with less equitable representation from the
full range of nursing practice would be
slower to respond to complaints from the
public, as consultation from outside experts
would have to be obtained.

Your vote in granting the Board of
Nursing full renewal allows the nursing
community to continue to deliver safe,
quality health care to all Alaskans.

Sincerely —

Sandra McAnarney, RN

SANDRA McANARNEY, RN
3521 Forest Grove Drive

TUNEAU, Alaska 99801

FEB 1 0 1992
B. Kelly

February 6, 1992

Senator Pearce
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Pearce,

I am writing to express my concern about HB 165 which renews the Alaska Board of Nursing for four years. If the bill is not approved, the Board will cease to exist with some distressing consequences.

Should there be no Board of Nursing, who would regulate the practice of nursing? Who would protect the public from incompetent or impaired nurses? Who would approve or deny approval to nursing schools in the state? Who will examine and licence applicants to practice nursing? Who would review licences, grant temporary licences, and provide for inactive status? Who will regulate specialty practice? And who will discipline those who violate the nurse practice act?

As a registered nurse I urge you to support HB 165 and vote for full renewal for the Board of Nursing. As one of approximately 5,000 RN's in the state, I know how effective the board has been in implementing the Alaska Nurse Practice Act. The regulations written and approved by the board are well respected and emulated throughout the country.

Your vote in granting the Board of Nursing full renewal allows the nursing community to continue to deliver safe, quality health care to all Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Cris Waste RN

FEB 10 1992

Billy

February 6, 1992

Senator Pearce
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Pearce,

I am writing regarding HB 165, pertaining to the existence and functioning of the Board of Nursing. As both a registered nurse and a member of the public, I am concerned about decisions that may be made pertaining to the Board of Nursing, and their consequent impact on the delivery of healthcare in Alaska.

The Board of Nursing fulfills a number of functions which, if compromised, could have serious consequences. A few are as follows:

1. The UAA School of Nursing requires Board approval in order to graduate nurses to be licensed. Without a Board of Nursing who would fulfill this function? Would this service be contracted out? If so, at what cost? Or, if a combined Board was formed, how could non-nursing professionals acceptably fulfill this role?
2. The Board presently has an active program for dealing with drug impaired nurses, providing disciplinary measures, monitoring, and support. Its aim is to both protect the public and return as many nurses to safe practice as possible. What will happen to this program?
3. Healthcare is one of the fastest growing and complex industries today. It is obviously one of the top priorities on both the national and state level. Nursing is an independent profession with its own knowledge base that is continuously expanding with ever increasing technological developments. This requires timely and astute decision making pertaining to scope of practice issues and development of standards of care. Such standards and statements require professional acumen that would not be possible to expect from a Board comprised of non-nursing professionals. We are in a time of rapid change. Healthcare institutions and individual professionals look to the Board of Nursing for interpretive statements. If the Board is allowed to sunset, or if a combined Board is formed, there will not be a vehicle available to meet those needs.

4. The Board deals with issues of professional competence. I have personally work with a nurse whose competency was indeed suspect. The Board of Nursing successfully investigated the matter and revoked this individual's license. Without a Board of Nursing who will deal with such critical issues? What protection will you offer the public?

The Board of Nursing represents over 5000 licensed nurses in the State of Alaska, practicing in multifarious fields of healthcare. We need our own Board, comprised of nursing professionals with the expertise to meet today's and tomorrow's demands. In an effort to practice cost containment, do not make the mistake of instituting changes such as elimination of a professional board, incurring hidden and sometimes unknown costs as a consequence. It has been said that "Profits, like sausages, are often esteemed most by those who do not know what goes into them." The same can also be said of cost containment measures. I urge you to see that HB 165 is passed out of the Labor and Commerce Committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Linda Giannino

Channing
Box 21015
Nuke Bay, AK 99821



Senator Pares
P.O. Box 1
Juneau, AK 99811

Boey

February 6, 1992

Senator Drue Pearce
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Pearce;

As you are aware, the Governor has appointed a task force to evaluate all Boards and Commissions. As a result, HB 165, which renews the Alaska Board of Nursing for four years, remains in your Labor and Commerce Committee. If HB 165 is not approved, the Board of Nursing will cease to exist.

As a Registered Nurse, I urge you to support HB 165, and vote for full renewal for the Board of Nursing. As one of approximately 5,000 RNs in the state, I know how effective the board has been in implementing the Alaska Nurse Practice Act. The regulations written and approved by the Board are well respected and emulated throughout the country.

The Board has a major role in protecting the public from receiving care from unqualified or impaired nurses. The present structure allows for rapid, unbiased investigation and fair disciplinary action. A board with less equitable representation from the full range of nursing practice (administration, education, nurse practitioner, staff RN, staff LPN, and a public member) would be slower to respond to complaints from the public, as consultation from outside experts would have to be obtained.

Your vote and support in granting the Board of Nursing full renewal allows the nursing community to continue to deliver safe, quality health care to all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Kathy Andrews R.N.

Gus & Kathy Address
P.O. Box 9-2782
Anchorage, AK 99509-2782



Senator Bruce PEARCE
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau
AK 99811

FEB 12 1992

February 6, 1992

Senator Drue Pearce
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Pearce;

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As a Registered Nurse, I urge you to support HB 165, and vote for full renewal for the Board of Nursing. As one of approximately 5,000 RNs in the state, I know how effective the board has been in implementing the Alaska Nurse Practice Act. The regulations written and approved by the Board are well respected and emulated throughout the country.

The Board has a major role in protecting the public from receiving care from unqualified or impaired nurses. The present structure allows for rapid, unbiased investigation and fair disciplinary action. A board with less equitable representation from the full range of nursing practice (administration, education, nurse practitioner, staff RN, staff LPN, and a public member) would be slower to respond to complaints from the public, as consultation from outside experts would have to be obtained.

Your vote and support in granting the Board of Nursing full renewal allows the nursing community to continue to deliver safe, quality health care to all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Evelyn (Kempson)



EMMSM
@rehab

SISTERS OF
PROVIDENCE

SERVING IN THE WEST SINCE 1856

PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL
3200 PROVIDENCE DRIVE
P.O. BOX 190004
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-0004



SENATOR DON W. PEACE
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 1 (MSBIDD)
JUNEAU, AK 99801

FEB 19 1992

February 6, 1992

Senator Drue Pearce
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Pearce;

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As a Registered Nurse, I urge you to support HB 165, and vote for full renewal for the Board of Nursing. As one of approximately 5,000 RNs in the state, I know how effective the board has been in implementing the Alaska Nurse Practice Act. The regulations written and approved by the Board are well respected and emulated throughout the country.

The Board has a major role in protecting the public from receiving care from unqualified or impaired nurses. The present structure allows for rapid, unbiased investigation and fair disciplinary action. A board with less equitable representation from the full range of nursing practice (administration, education, nurse practitioner, staff RN, staff LPN, and a public member) would be slower to respond to complaints from the public, as consultation from outside experts would have to be obtained.

Your vote and support in granting the Board of Nursing full renewal allows the nursing community to continue to deliver safe, quality health care to all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Anna A. Moore RN

Wenatchee Drive Place
Ak. State Legislature
PO Box V (MS3100)
Juneau, AK 99811



M. Mark
9908 Walker
212 Alk 995111

FEB 12 1992

February 7, 1992

Margaret McNaughton, A.N.P.
12700 Lupine Road
Anchorage, AK 99516

Senator Drue Pearce
Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Pearce:

My purpose in writing is to request your support of HB165, which serves to extend the Board of Nursing. As a registered nurse and Advanced Nurse Practitioner I believe that it is essential that the Board of Nursing continue, and continue as a board separate from other professional boards.

Nursing is a unique health care science. Nurses are highly skilled professionals who have long demonstrated responsibility for their professional actions. It is imperative that nurses continue to be responsible for management of the nursing profession within Alaska. Continuation of the Board of Nursing will allow myself and other dedicated nurses to continue to work and grow within our profession and will allow Alaskans to continue to benefit from the high quality of nursing care available within the state of Alaska.

I sincerely hope that you share my concern that the Board of Nursing be extended and will work for passage of HB165.

Sincerely,



Margaret McNaughton, MS, RN, C, ANP
Certified Family Nurse Practitioner

Alaska State Legislature

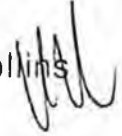
FEB 11 1992

During Session
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-2828

During Interim
3111 C Street, Suite 540
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 561-2040

Senator Virginia Collins

To: Senator Drue Pearce
Senate Labor and Commerce Chair

From: Senator Virginia Collins 

Subject: Alaska Board of Nursing

Date: February 10, 1992

The Alaska Board of Nursing provides a valuable service to Alaskans. This board protects Alaskans and has proven to be strong and effective. Only a supervisory board composed of nurses can understand the problems and needs of nurses. This board should continue to have control over the education, licensure and discipline of nurses and advanced nurse practitioners.

I respectfully ask that you schedule a hearing for HB 165 in Senate Labor and Commerce at your earliest convenience. I am available to discuss this board. Thank you for your consideration.

February 6, 1992

FEB 10 1992

Senator Collins
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Collins,

I am writing regarding HB 165, pertaining to the existence and functioning of the Board of Nursing. As both a registered nurse and a member of the public, I am concerned about decisions that may be made pertaining to the Board of Nursing, and their consequent impact on the delivery of healthcare in Alaska.

The Board of Nursing fulfills a number of functions which, if compromised, could have serious consequences. A few are as follows:

1. The UAA School of Nursing requires Board approval in order for graduate nurses to be licensed. Without a Board of Nursing who would fulfill this function? Would this service be contracted out? If so, at what cost? Or, if a combined Board was formed, how could non-nursing professionals acceptably fulfill this role?
2. The Board presently has an active program for dealing with drug impaired nurses, providing disciplinary measures, monitoring, and support. Its aim is to both protect the public and return as many nurses to safe practice as possible. What will happen to this program?
3. Healthcare is one of the fastest growing and complex industries today. It is obviously one of the top priorities on both the national and state level. Nursing is an independent profession with its own knowledge base that is continuously expanding with ever increasing technological developments. This requires timely and astute decision making pertaining to scope of practice issues and development of standards of care. Such standards and statements require professional acumen that would not be possible to expect from a Board comprised of non-nursing professionals. We are in a time of rapid change. Healthcare institutions and individual professionals look to the Board of Nursing for interpretive statements. If the Board is allowed to sunset, or if a combined Board is formed, there will not be a vehicle available to meet those needs.

4. The Board deals with issues of professional competence. I have personally work with a nurse whose competency was indeed suspect. The Board of Nursing successfully investigated the matter and revoked this individual's license. Without a Board of Nursing who will deal with such critical issues? What protection will you offer the public?

The Board of Nursing represents over 5000 licensed nurses in the State of Alaska, practicing in multifarious fields of healthcare. We need our own Board, comprised of nursing professionals with the expertise to meet today's and tomorrow's demands. In an effort to practice cost containment, do not make the mistake of instituting changes such as elimination of a professional board, incurring hidden and sometimes unknown costs as a consequence. It has been said that "Profits, like sausages, are often esteemed most by those who do not know what goes into them." The same can also be said of cost containment measures. I urge you to see that HB 165 is passed out of the Labor and Commerce Committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda Giannino".

Linda Giannino

1000
Belly

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Mr. Drue Pearce, Chm.
State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Pearce:

May I introduce myself in order to put my comments in perspective? By profession I have been a Registered Nurse since 1960 and an Advanced Nurse Practitioner since 1976. I have lived in Alaska since 1967 and have been employed as a Itinerant Public Health Nurse, Public Health Nurse Coordinator, and Nurse Practitioner.

Re: HB 16 re extension of the Board of Nursing. It is my understanding that a proposal has been made to combine the Boards for Medicine, Denistry, and Nursing. While administratively it would appear to be a great idea, in reality it would result in chaos. Philosophically, as well as technically, each of these professions represent very different disciplines and in day to day practice are not always in harmony with each other. As a nurse with some "medical type experiences", I would find it very difficult to presume I could direct doctors and dentists in their fields. Neither do I feel they are qualified to define and direct nursing practice.

As an example of this lack of understanding consider the response of the American Medical Association to the national shortage of nurses. Their solution was to create a new person who would be called a technician, do tasks similar to those of a nurses aide and/or Licensed Practical Nurse, and be trained and controlled by the phycsians who then would expect nurses to provide on the job supervision, etc. It would seem far simpler and more logical to put energy into making nursing a more attractive profession by promoting education and salary benefits.

In Alaska nursing is well represented: over 4000 hold licenses. That adds up also to over \$400,000 paid to the State for related fees. Of that the State provides only one paid staff member. As a taxpayer that appears to me to be a good return on a small investment.

Summarizing: The Board of Nursing needs to remain in order to continue the job they have done well at relatively minor expense. Each of the Health Professions Boards needs to be enabled to focus on the unique needs and opportunities within their profession and not dilute their talents by asking them to take on another's responsibilities. As the saying goes, If it ain't broke don't fix it. The Board of Nursing is strong and healthy; don't break it.

Sincerely,
Charles W. Wolf, Jr.
3832 Young St.
Anch. Ak 99508
561 6652

The Green Bough
BED AND BREAKFAST
HARRY & PHYLLIS JOST
7832 VINTAGE DRIVE
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46621



Mr. James F. ...
...
State of Alaska
... Alaska, U.S.

February 10, 1992

Senator Drue Pearce
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Pearce:


As you are aware, the Governor has appointed a task force to evaluate all Boards and Commissions. As a result, HB 165, which renews the Alaska Board of Nursing for four years, remains in the Labor & Commerce Committee. If HB 165 is not approved, the Board will cease to exist.

As a registered nurse, I urge you to support HB 165, and vote for full renewal for the Board of Nursing. As one of approximately 5,000 RN's in the state, I know how effective the board has been in implementing the Alaska Nurse Practice Act. The regulations written and approved by the Board are well respected and emulated throughout the country.

The Board has a major role in protecting the public from receiving care from unqualified or impaired nurses. The present structure allows for rapid, unbiased investigation and fair disciplinary action. A board with less equitable representation from the full range of nursing practice would be slower to respond to complaints from the public, as consultation from outside experts would have to be obtained.

Your vote in granting the Board of Nursing full renewal allows the nursing community to continue to deliver safe, quality health care to all Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Laura R. Gregovich
P.O. Box 20281
Juneau, Alaska 99802

FEB 14 1992

Mary Anne Wilson, RN, ANP
PO Box 364
King Salmon, AK 99613

Drue Pearce, Chair
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

February 12, 1992

Dear Senator Pearce;

As you are aware, the Governor has appointed a task force to evaluate all Boards and Commissions. As a result, HB 165, which renews the Alaska Board of Nursing for four years, remains in the Labor and Commerce Committee. IF HB 165 is not approved, the Board will cease to exist.

As a registered nurse, I urge you to support HB 165 and vote for full renewal for the Board of Nursing. As one of approximately 5,000 RN's in the state, I know how effective the board has been in implementing the Alaska Nurse Practice Act. The regulations written and approved by the Board are well respected and emulated throughout the country.

The Board approves schools of nursing in Alaska, examines all applicants for nursing licenses and advanced nurse practitioner licenses, regulates specialties of nursing, and brings disciplinary action against those who violate the practice act.

The Board has a major role in protecting the public from receiving care from unqualified or impaired nurses. The present structure allows for rapid, unbiased investigation and fair disciplinary action. A board with less equitable representation from the full range of nursing practice would be slower to respond to complaints from the public, as a consultation from outside experts would have to be obtained.

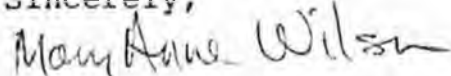
The public is fully aware, upon inquiry, about the status of the board's memorandums of agreement with "impaired practitioners," unlike other boards who choose to keep the impaired practitioners anonymous.

Acknowledging budgetary constraints, nurses contribute over \$400,000. to the state in licensing fees with only one paid staff.

Additionally, an independent audit gave the Board an outstanding evaluation and recommended an eight year continuation instead of four years.

Your vote in granting the Board of Nursing full renewal allows the nursing community to continue to deliver safe, quality health care to all Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Mary Anne Wilson, RN
Advanced Nurse Practitioner

cc: Governor Hickel

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR PEARCE

NAME: SHARON MYTAL

TITLE:

ADDRESS: PO BOX 20063

CITY: JUNEAU, AK.

PHONE: N/R-

BILL NO: HB 165

SUBJECT: BOARDS

MESSAGE: I DO NOT SUPPORT A JMT. BOARD OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY & NURSING. PLEASE SUPPORT HB 165 AND CONTACT ME IF YOU WANT FURTHER INFORMATION.

ZIP: 99802

POMID: 00100514

DATE: 92/02/13

TIME: 10:05:14

LIONAME: JUNEAU LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

COLLINS
HALFORD
KERTTULA
CRAFT

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR PEARCE

NAME: BETSEY BURDOTT

TITLE:

ADDRESS: BOX 9143

CITY: KETCHIKAN, AK

PHONE: 225-8829

BILL NO: SB 16

SUBJECT: EDUCATION EMPLOYEE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

MESSAGE: THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SB 16 AND FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!

ZIP: 99901

POMID: 09184923

DATE: 92/02/13

TIME: 18:49:23

LIONAME: KETCHIKAN LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

COLLINS
COTTEN
DUNCAN
ELIASON
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KERTTULA
MENARD
POURCHOT
ROEY
SHULTZ
STURGULEWSKI
HOFFMAN
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR PEARCE

NAME: FRAN KINKEAD

TITLE: A.N.P.

ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 22320

CITY: JUNEAU

PHONE: N/R-

ZIP: 99802

BILL NO: HB 165

SUBJECT: ~~EXTEND BOARD OF NURSING~~

MESSAGE: I AM A CERTIFIED NURSE MID-WIFE AND REGISTERED NURSE. I SUPPORT HB 165 AND WOULD LIKE IT MOVED OUT THE THE SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE. I DO NOT SUPPORT A JOINT BOARD OF MEDICINE, DENISTRY AND NURSING. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

POMID: 00095404

DATE: 92/02/13

TIME: 09:54:04

LIONAME: JUNEAU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

HANLEY
LARSON
G.PHILLIPS

ADAMS
COLLINS
HALFORD
KERTTULA
CRAFT

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR PEARCE

NAME: DAPHNE HOFSCULTE

TITLE:

ADDRESS: PO BOX 55226

CITY: NORTH POLE

PHONE: 488-2251

ZIP: 99705

BILL NO: SB 16

SUBJECT: EDUCATION EMPLOYEE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

MESSAGE: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF SB 16. EVERYONE BENEFITS FROM AN EFFICIENT AND REASONABLE PROCESS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP IN MAINTAINING PERA. THANK YOU

POMID: 07101428

DATE: 92/02/13

TIME: 10:14:28

LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

COLLINS
COTTEN
DUNCAN
CRAFT
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KERTTULA
MENARD
POURCHOT
RODEY
SHULTZ
STURGUIEWSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF
ELIASON

February 18, 1992

Dear Governor Hickel and Esteemed Legislators:

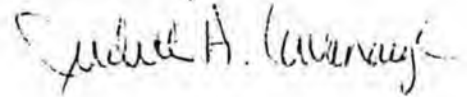
I am a Registered Nurse in Alaska and have worked at Bartlett Memorial Hospital for more than six years. I have always been proud to be a nurse and was therefore greatly concerned to hear that the Alaska State Board of Nursing will "sunset" if you do not pass legislation by 30 June 1992 to renew it. I urge you to renew this most important Board for the nurses of this state.

I know you have received a large volume of mail on this issue and have heard the multitudes of reasons for renewing it. There are more than 5000 nurses in this state and we depend on the Board of Nursing to: maintain professional peer review; the Impaired Nurses Program; certification of state nursing school curriculum; and recommending regulations and standards for nursing practice in this state.

The Board of Nursing should not be combined with other Boards, as has been proposed, as we have unique needs, and those needs will not be met to my satisfaction by combining those Boards to save a few dollars. Health care is an important issue to all Alaskans, and the maintaining of high quality nursing care is vitally important to all nurses in this state.

The State Board of Nursing plays a fundamental role in maintaining the high quality of nursing in this state. I urge you to renew this board.

Sincerely,



Judith A. Cavanaugh
510 3rd Street
Juneau, AK. 99801

2-10-92

FEB 19 1992

Senator Drue Pearce
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Senator Pearce,

As a Registered Nurse, I am asking you to send HB 165 to the Senate and personally urge you to vote for its passage.

I believe that Nurses working under Nursing Peers regulate themselves and the Board which exists, does have a major role of protecting our Alaskans, the public.

Thank you for your prompt attention to a very important issue, HB 165, renewal of the Alaska Board of Nursing.

Sincerely,

Rebecca J. Jaeger, RN.
3451 Meander Way
Juneau, Alaska 99801

FEB 18 1992

8321 Counterpane Lane
Juneau, Alaska 99801
11 February 1992

Senator Pearce
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Pearce,

As you are aware the Governor has appointed a task force to evaluate all boards and commissions. As a result HB 165, which renews the Alaska Board of Nursing for four years, remains in the Labor and Commerce Committee. If HB 165 is not approved, the board will cease to exist. This may not at first glance appear to have significant implications if the functions of the Board of Nursing are not well known to you. Basically the Board of Nursing sets the standards from which we practice. They write and implement the rules and regulations of the Nurse Practice Act, which is a law defining and regulating how we practice nursing. This protects the public by making nurses accountable for their nursing practice. In practical terms, accountability means:

- the review and granting or denial of nursing licenses (we could lose our ability to become licensed, relicensed, or to have impaired nurse's licenses revoked)
- the administration of nursing licensure examinations (new nursing graduates will no longer be able to become licensed in Alaska)
- approval or denial of approval of nursing programs (the University of Alaska nursing program could no longer be accredited in state, so it may be lost)
- setting the rules from which we practice and modifying them as the needs arise (examples include: allowing Certified Nurse Practitioners to prescribe medications and extending the allowable practices of Licensed Practical Nurses to include regulating IVs.) In the unique settings of Alaska, this ability to change and regulate practice standards is even more crucial than any other state, because of the remoteness of so many of the villages and the special needs that they experience.

In my position as nurse manager of a Critical Care Unit, I train newly hired nurses to work in our unit then evaluate their performances. Four years ago we hired a nurse who was having a great deal of difficulty functioning in her capacity as a staff nurse. We tried various types of remedial training including lengthening her probation period to nearly double the normal time, giving her special one-on-one training, additional counselling, and special classes. None of these methods were effective in helping to improve the quality of her care or her

SENT
LETTERS! ☺

For your
LAC files

♡ SJS

ability to function. When it was evident that she would or could not change, she was let go. Because of the severity of her deficiencies, we took her case before the Board of Nursing for review. They sent an investigator who researched her professional career quite thoroughly, then after the investigation, her Alaska nursing license was revoked. Without the Board of Nursing, we could have terminated her position at this hospital, but would have had no way to prevent her from working as a nurse at any other Alaska facility including: clinics, hospitals, schools, or businesses. Because of the Nursing Board, she will no longer be able to practice in Alaska.

One issue the Board is currently researching, is the licensing and training of nurse's aides. Because of the trend toward shorter hospital stays and more time spent with in-home care, there is a desperate need for trained health aides for home bound patients. A few months ago, we had two patients in our unit at the same time who were going to require 24 hour home care. Their families wanted very much to take them home, but no trained help could be found, and the families simply could not care for them without it.

These are only a few examples of what the Alaska Board of Nursing has and is planning on accomplishing that has affected myself, my staff, and my patients. There are many more. These are not issues that can be addressed by a combination board attempting to solve conflicting difficulties or problems of unrelated professions. They are issues that uniquely affect nurses. The Alaska Board of Nursing has functioned well for 50 years setting standards after which other states have patterned their own.

I urge you to support HB 165, and vote for full renewal of the Board of Nursing. To lose the ability to protect the public from impaired or unqualified nurses or change the practice of nursing as the needs of the public changed, would be a sad and frightening legacy to leave behind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice L. Gray R.N. CCRN". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Janice L. Gray, R.N., CCRN

Senator Drue Pearce, Chair
Sneate Labor and Commerce Committee
Room 101
P.O. Box 5
Juneau, AK 99811-1182

2/17/92

Dear Senator Pearce,

I am writing in regard to the issue of Boards and Commissions, and the plans that have been discussed for combining them or their elimination due to inertia.

First, I am a nurse and appreciate the direction the Board of Nursing takes in regard to issues that affect my practice. For instance, the Nursing Board undertook a project several years ago to better define the different levels of nursing education by changing the distinction in the naming of nurses. This action has long term effects in that the various levels of education are acknowledged (ie, LPN, one year, RN, 2-3 years, and Professional Nurse, 4 years of education, in a University setting). Most nurses aspire to the BSN, or 4-year degree, but the public is unaware of the various distinctions and hospitals are not willing to adapt differences because they prefer to hire according to the lowest common denominator of education that they can get away with. A combined "super board" would not have considered such action important, and/or, physicians would have opposed it, as most physicians see nurses in a menial manner. (They usually hire LPN's for their offices, as they are the least expensive and the least likely to challenge their decisions.)

Second, the Board of Nursing is important to protection of the public in it's role of monitoring chemically impaired professionals. I had the opportunity to read a report from the Board of Nursing regarding a nurse who agreed to participate in the program. The nurse agreed to all the provisions of the agreement. If a super-board were in place, would there be such detail? Such monitoring? I doubt it!

Third, it is difficult to compare Nursing with any other health care profession. There are about 5,400 licensed nurses in Alaska and about 1200 MD's, and fewer Pharmacists, Chiropractors, etc. Nurse's jobs are often controlled by physicians. Anyone who doubts this only has to look at the fact that Providence Hospital has over 800 nurses on staff and guess how many there are on the Board of Directors? ?? You are correct. None. Guess how many physicians? Last I heard, there were 3 out of (I think) 12 positions. Although MD's might be able to influence the position of Pharmacists, Respiratory Therapists, and other licensed health care workers, there is no group so vulnerable to the whims of MD's as nurses. To combine the Nurses on a board with MD's would be a step back-ward for the primarily female (97%) nurses against the primarily male (60-70%) MD's.

I'm sure you are aware of the need to reduce state spending. However, I am not convinced that this is the proper manner in which to do it. I would like very much to see your committee move to extend the Board of Nursing for 4 years.

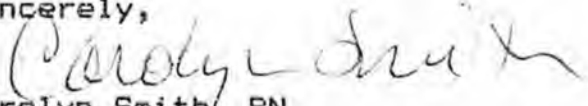
I had the opportunity to request the support of the Board for a Masters' Thesis project I started on (and haven't finished). This was in regard to Native RN's. They were very supportive of me and provided me with the data I was seeking regarding how many Native RN's were licensed in the State. (only 26 for the 88 licensure survey.) I recently asked for an update on the 90 licensure data and was told that the Board didn't have enough money or time to analyze the data. They really are operating in a tight budget! I'd like to know the results of the 90 survey!

On a different matter, I am fully in support of your "Prevention of Teen Pregnancy" plan. I am a school nurse (Steller Secondary) in Anchorage, and although we have not had a single pregnancy this school year yet, I am fully aware of the devastation that occurs with this social problem. I am very, very supportive of all efforts to prevent teen pregnancy. Our school recently voted in favor of having condoms available in the school. The impression I got was that the students would rather not get them from the nurse, but from restroom vending machines. I agree.

The conservative approach is that this will encourage sexual activity. I asked students about this and they indicated that this idea was ridiculous! They said teens have sex all the time, and having condoms in restrooms (for purchase, at a dollar a condom or so) would simply make it less embarrassing for them to protect themselves.

I hope you will consider my request for a 4 year continuance of the Board of Nursing. And, Please contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,


Carolyn Smith, RN

1521 Shore Drive
Anchorage, AK 99515

FEB 24 1992

**Kodiak
Area
Native
Association**



February 18, 1992

402 Center Avenue
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
Phone (907) 486-5725

Representative Cliff Davidson
Room 108, Capitol
P. O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Davidson:

I am writing to support House Bill 168, a continuance for Board of Nursing for the next four (4) years. Professional licensure is a very deep issue for nursing. Nursing is both an art and a science who's discipline is independent, interdependent and dependent upon medical practice. Even though nursing interrelates in a team manner, our scientific base for practice is very different from that of medicine, veterinary science, or chiropractic medicine etc. Nursing is best versed to address licensure concerns, legal issues related to professional practice and to plan the direction of change for future nursing practice. Unless a professional has been educated and mentored in our scientific practice base, it would be impossible to address the intricacy of practice issues and related legal issues.

Nursing has enjoyed it's own direction and structure for decades. To structure nursing within a pool of health care professionals to address licensure issues is a step back not only for nursing, but for other disciplines involved.

I ask sincerely for the future viability of the nursing profession to continue the Nursing State Board as is. Considering any other structure would be the end of the autonomous nursing practice we have and continue to struggle for daily.

Respectfully,

KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION
KELLY SIMEONOFF, JR., PRESIDENT

Lauren J. Salamone, M.S., R.N.
CHAF Manager

cc: Drew Pearce

LJS/mr

Senator Pearce
Alaska Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

February 24, 1992

Dear Senator Pearce

As a member of the Labor and Commerce Committee you are aware of the task force appointed by Governor Hickle to evaluate all Boards and Commissions. HB 165, which renews the Alaska Board of Nursing for four years, is currently before your committee. If HB 165 is not approved, the Board of Nursing will cease to exist.

As a registered nurse, I urge you to support HB 165, and vote for full renewal for the Board of Nursing. As one of approximately 5,000 RNs in the state, I know how effective the board has been in implementing the Alaska Nurse Practice Act. The regulations written and approved by the Board are well respected and emulated throughout the country.

The Board has a major role in protecting the public from receiving care from unqualified or impaired nurses. The present structure allows for rapid, unbiased investigation and fair disciplinary action. A board with less equitable representation from the full range of nursing practice would be slower to respond to complaints from the public, and more costly, as consultation from outside experts would have to be obtained.

Your vote in granting the Board of Nursing full renewal allows the nursing community to continue to deliver safe, quality health care to all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Lianne Rogers RN

MAR 3 1992

Senator Pearce
Alaska Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

February 24, 1992

Dear Senator Pearce

As a member of the Labor and Commerce Committee you are aware of the task force appointed by Governor Hickle to evaluate all Boards and Commissions. HB 165, which renews the Alaska Board of Nursing for four years, is currently before your committee. If HB 165 is not approved, the Board of Nursing will cease to exist.

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The Board has a major role in protecting the public from receiving care from unqualified or impaired nurses. The present structure allows for rapid, unbiased investigation and fair disciplinary action. A board with less equitable representation from the full range of nursing practice would be slower to respond to complaints from the public, and more costly, as consultation from outside experts would have to be obtained.

Your vote in granting the Board of Nursing full renewal allows the nursing community to continue to deliver safe, quality health care to all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Marilee Atwell

The Powells
8871 Pioneer Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99504



Senator Pearce
Alaska Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska. 99801-1182.

MAR 3 1992

February 24, 1992

Senator Drue Pearce
Alaska State Legislature
P O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Pearce,

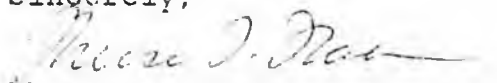
I understand that you are the Chair of the Labor and Commerce Committee. HB 165, which renews the Alaska Board of Nursing for four years, has been and remains in your committee. If HB 165 is not approved, the Nursing Board will cease to exist. This sun-downing is due to occur this year.

As a Registered Nurse, I urge you to move this bill out of your committee so that it can be voted on and the Board of Nursing renewed. The Board of Nursing is effective in many areas, most notably for the development of the Alaska Nurse Practice Act. These regulations are well respected and emulated throughout the nation.

The Board has a major role in protecting the public from receiving care from unqualified or impaired nurses. The present structure allows for rapid, unbiased investigation and fair disciplinary action. In this age of spiraling health care costs and health care related litigation, it is in the best interest of all Alaskans that a functioning Board of Nursing be present.

The nursing community wants to continue to deliver safe, quality health care to our clients. Renewing the Alaska Board of Nursing will help us do just that.

Sincerely,


Therese T. Frank R.N. CCRN
426 Gold St.
Juneau, Alaska 99801

I support extending the Alaska Board of Nursing as a separate Board. The health and safety of Alaskans are served well by this Board as it functions now.

Signed:

Date:

Kenneth J. Kokjer

25 Feb 92

*Kenneth J. Kokjer
Box 80907
Fairbanks AK 99705*

Alaska Board of Nursing
Fact Sheet
March 1992

- Composition: 4 Registered Nurses - 1 from baccalaureate nursing education
- Betsy McCune, RN, MN 3/93
3 members at large
- Gail Stewart, RN, ANP (Anchorage) 3/92
- Mary Stroeing, RN (Juneau) 3/94
- Susan Gass, RN (Ketchikan) 3/95
1 Licensed Practical Nurse - vacant
2 Public Members - Louise Dean (3/94)
Georgeann Wasky (term expired 3/91)
- Functions: Adopt regulations pertaining to nursing practice
- Prescriptive authority for advanced nurse practitioners
- Authorization to practice for CRNAs and ANPs
- Continued competency requirement for license renewal and reinstatement
Formulate standards of nursing practice
- Position Paper on Expanded Practice for Experienced LPNs
- Scope of Practice for Registered Nurses and Advanced Nurse Practitioners
- LPN Utilization in Administration of Oral, Subcutaneous and IM Medications
- Nursing Responsibilities in Intravenous Therapy
- Activities of Unlicensed Nursing Personnel
Examine, license, renew the licenses of qualified applicants
- NCLEX-RN held February 1992 and July 1992
- NCLEX-PN held October 1991 and April 1992
- Biennial renewal November 1992 for all registered nurses
Investigate alleged violations of the Nurse Practice Act and take disciplinary action
- Approximately 35 investigations ongoing @ any one time
- Litigation in progress for 3 cases
- Approximately 19-35 individuals monitored as a result of impaired practice (each requires 3 year monitor cycle)
- Board spends 25% of each quarterly meeting dealing with disciplinary issues
- Board participates in 2 additional conference calls per year dealing with disciplinary issues
Approve curricula and adopt standards for basic education programs
- One time approval for Everett Community College to sponsor LPN-->ADN program in Ketchikan
Approve nursing education programs
- Most recent approval for BSN & ADN Programs Nov 1991
Survey basic nursing education programs within state
Provide advisory opinions regarding whether nursing practice procedures & policies comply with acceptable practice standards
Keep records of proceedings and submit annual reports
- Proceedings of Board meetings available on a quarterly basis and circulated to health care facilities, schools of nursing, AANA
- Annual reports available
- Budget: Average FY 90 and 91 Annual Costs for Board = \$457,613
Average FY 90 and 91 Annual Revenue = 335,050
Difference = \$122,563

(If the 5700 RNs and LPNs increased licensure fees by \$20 per biennium, the Board of Nursing would be entirely self-support.)

Compiled by the Alaska Nurses Association

RESPONSE SENT 3/5

Donna Frostad
4010 Wispen Circle
Anchorage, Alaska
99517

March 1, 1992

Dear Senator Pearce,

This is being written to voice my opinion on HB 165.

I do not believe that the Alaska Board of Nursing should be dissolved. Last year the Alaska House of Representatives recommended an eight year extension for the board of nursing.

I do not feel that a board that is not familiar with requirements of nursing, monitoring and setting up qualifications and ongoing educational requirements should monitor our licensing.

Please do not take away the current Board of Nursing. Thanks you

Donna Frostad
Registered Nurse, Certified

NURSES!

Ms Donna A Frostad
4010 Wispen Cir #A
Anchorage AK 99517-2827



Senator Bruce Pease
Chair Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capital
Juneau, Ak.
99811

RESPONSE SENT
3/5

2321 Southview Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
March 1, 1992

Senator Drue Pierce, Chair
Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Pierce

I was disturbed to hear that the Alaska Board of Nursing will cease to exist at the end of June unless HB 165 Extension of the Board of Nursing is passed by the Senate during this session. This board was recommended for an eight year extension last year by the House of Representatives.

The Board of Nursing represents and monitors the practice of over 5000 nurses statewide. I do not feel that the initiative to combine the medical, dental, pharmacy and nursing boards into one super board is acceptable. The standards of practice and ethics set forth in the Alaska Nurse Practice Act can be best monitored by nurses who are intimately knowledgeable in the fine points of nursing practice. I am certain that members of the medical, dental and pharmacy professions feel equally as strong about the dilution of their boards of practice. In this lawsuit-conscious society, it is imperative that the boards remain separate in order to best maintain the high quality of the professions in this state.

I hope you and your committee will quickly vote on this bill and recommend it be passed by the entire Senate as soon as possible.

Thank you for your help on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Christine G. Boone RN

Christine G. Boone, RN

March 1, 1992

Patty M. Scott RN
P.O. Box 142872
Anchorage, AK 99514

Senator Drue Pearce
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Mr. Pearce,

As you are aware, the Governor has appointed a task force to evaluate all Boards and Commissions. As a result, HB 165, which renews the Alaska Board of Nursing for four years, remains in the Labor & Commerce Committee. If HB 165 is not approved, the Board will cease to exist.

As a registered nurse, I urge you to support HB 165, and vote for full renewal for the Board of Nursing. As one of approximately 5,000 RNs in the state, I know how effective the board has been in implementing the Alaska Nurse Practice Act. The regulations written and approved by the Board are well respected and emulated throughout the country.

The Board has a major role in protecting the public from receiving care from unqualified or impaired nurses. The present structure allows for rapid, unbiased investigation and fair disciplinary action. A board with less equitable representation from the full range of nursing practice would be slower to respond to complaints from the public, as consultation from outside experts would have to be obtained.

Your vote in granting the Board of Nursing full renewal allows the nursing community to continue to deliver safe, quality health care to all Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Patty M. Scott

Billy

March 1, 1992

Senator Drue Pearce, Chair
Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Senator Pearce:

I am a Registered Nurse with nearly 15 years of work history in the State of Alaska. This letter is to express my desire to have the Board of Nursing to continue to represent and monitor the practice of the 5000+ nurses in the State of Alaska. The Board of Nursing was recommended LAST YEAR for an eight year extension by the Alaska House of Representatives. The initiative to combine the medical, dental, pharmacy and nursing boards into a "Super Board" is not acceptable to me. Only nurses, or the Board of Nursing, should have power over the Alaska Nurse Practice Act. As a working member of one of the largest labor forces in the state, I urge you to pass HB 165 Extension of the Board of Nursing out of your committee.

Sincerely,

Marjorie King

Marjorie King, RN
7307 Foxridge Circle #2
Anchorage, Alaska 99518

*Steph -
Send 'new'
nurses letter, pl.
13*

March 1, 1992

Dear Senator Pearce,

Currently, the Alaska Board of Nursing is in danger of being eliminated through the Sunset Review process. I am pleased that we have a process through which we examine the purpose, efficiency, and effectiveness of our state's Boards and Commissions, and eliminate those that are no longer needed. This is not the case for the Alaska Board of Nursing.

As a former member of the Board, I am aware that in the past ten years, the responsibilities of the Board have almost doubled. The Board licenses the single largest group of health professionals in the state (6,000), reviews two schools of nursing for safety, appropriateness of curricula, and preparation of its students for licensure and practice, monitors the practice of nurses in the state, and investigates complaints or concerns regarding nursing practice, and gives the licensing exams. The Board has also taken on the certification of nurses aides in the past several years.

The Board carries out these duties without unnecessary travel or meetings. It holds meetings by teleconference when it can, has packed agendas, and the efficient staff provide board members with background information in advance so that the members are prepared for the deliberations.

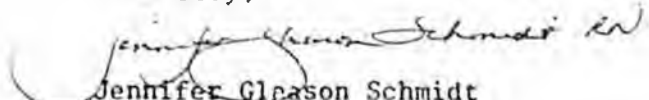
At a time when medical and nursing care is becoming more complex by the month, and cost containment measures are increasing, it is all the more important that there is a well-functioning, experienced Board of NURSING to ensure that nurses are functioning within the scope of their education and experience and within the Nurse Practice Act.

One of the concerns that I have about possibly combining the Board of Nursing with some other health boards is that it is not uncommon for nurses to be asked to provide patient care for which they are not prepared, covered, nor paid. Physicians, dentists, pharmacists, and health care administrators sometimes ask nurses to act outside their scope, so that they won't have to get up and run into the hospital, stay around and monitor the patient, or pay another provider. It's important for nurses to know that there is a board that can understand their concerns and back them up in such circumstances.

In November of 1991, Alaska's nurses celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Alaska Board of Nursing. I am proud to have worked with the nursing leaders and consumers who have donated their time to promote the safest nursing care possible for Alaska's residents. I see great benefit in utilizing experienced volunteers who understand Alaska's unique health care systems, rather than contracting out many of the services that the state must provide.

Please support the continuation of this essential board, for a full four years.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Gleason Schmidt

Box 82944, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99708
4572312

I support extending the Alaska Board of Nursing as a separate Board. The health and safety of Alaskans are served well by this Board as it functions now.

Signed:

Date:

Jarisa B. Disamoto, RN
3-2-92

Fairbanks Head Start
1027 Evergreen Street
Fairbanks, AK

Dear Senator Pearce,

March 2, 1992
MAY 5 1992

It has come to my attention that there is a bill, namely HB 165 Extension of The Board of Nursing, that needs to be passed out of committee. If it is not, the Alaska Board of Nursing will no longer exist. Instead a "super board" combining medical, dental, pharmacy and nursing boards will be enacted. This is not acceptable to me, a nurse.

I feel that each of the professions noted above needs its own governing body i.e. board to insure continuing quality of professional service. Each profession noted above is unique and cannot and should not be lumped into one unit.

Sincerely,

Dolores Ingram RN
3522 W. 27th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

March 3, 1992

Senator Arue Pearce
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V (US 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Pearce,

As you are aware, the Governor has appointed a task force to evaluate all boards and commissions. As a result, HB165, which renews the Alaska Board of Nursing for four years, remains in the favor of Commerce Committee. If HB165 is not approved, the Board will cease to exist.

As a registered nurse, I urge you to support HB165, and vote for full renewal for Board of Nursing. As one of approximately 5,000 RNs in the state, I know how effective the Board has been in implementing the Alaska Nurse Practice Act. The regulations written and approved by the Board are well respected and emulated throughout the country.

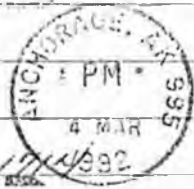
The Board has a major role in protecting the public from receiving care from unqualified or impaired nurses. The present structure allows for rapid, unbiased investigation and fair disciplinary action. A board with less equitable representation from the full range of nursing practice would be slower to respond to complaints from the public, as consultation from outside experts would have to be ob-

Thank you.

Your vote in granting the Board of
Nurses full renewal allows the nursing
community to continue to deliver safe, quality
health care to all Massans.

Sincerely,
Melinda Ann Pellegrino R.N.

W.A. Williams RV
1638 N. Pine Street
Chester, AK 99508-1714



Senator & Dr. George
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V (C153100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

MAR 5 1992

To: Senator Drue Pearce
State Capitol
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

From: Robert Chatfield
9573 Eagle St.
Juneau, Ak. 99801

March 3, 1992

In the last months, I have done some investigating into the functioning of the Board of Nursing and the proposals of the Task Force on Boards and Commissions. I am a Registered Nurse in the state of Alaska and I do have my biases, however I think there are some grave problems with the proposals under consideration by the task force. It also has become apparent that the task force has no other agenda than to consolidate boards and commissions within the State of Alaska. I think you have been asked to improve a round wheel by finding another shape that will work better, instead of improving on the round wheel. Good Luck.

The Division of Occupational Licensing and our present licensing structure are working examples that other states look to as a model for consolidation of functions. The screening of applications, secretarial work, computer input, investigative work, renewal of licenses are all handled centrally by the Division. I can't speak to what happens in other boards, but the Board of Nursing essentially rubber stamps applications that have been screened by Occupational Licensing and spends their time addressing questionable applications and questions involving the Nursing Practice Act of the State of Alaska. The monitoring of persons found to have violated the Nursing Practice Act is also done by members of the board. I understand this usually has to do with drug abuse offenses, and the health professions and the Division of Occupational Licensing have proposals made regarding the Alaska Practitioner Recovery Program (HB323?) which will consolidate much of the monitoring function now carried on by the Board of Nursing and other boards. With all this consolidation, why not just consolidate the boards into the Citizens Health Board?

As a Registered Nurse in the State of Alaska, I could participate on the State Board of Nursing and I think I'm qualified to function conscientiously and well in that capacity. I have a good idea of the standards of nursing practice and the issues regarding the practice of nursing in general. I don't have the vaguest idea of what the standards are of dental practice or occupational therapy, but according to the design of the Citizens Health Board, I could be asked to make decisions about whether a person didn't meet their standards or had violated their standards. I feel just as ignorant of the practice of law and the standards to which lawyers are held. Why shouldn't I be on the Board of Governors of the AK Bar? Now, if these small points regarding the practice of a profession are to be delegated to a subcommittee of the Citizens Health Board, to report back to the entire Citizens Health Board, and the subcommittee is composed of experts in the field. What have you got? In my case, you have a Board of Nursing, under a larger Board. Has Per Diem and travel expense been cut for the subcommittee to meet, and later the expense of the Citizens Health Board? I doubt it.

When I'm sitting on the Citizens Health Board, and a questionable application regarding a physical therapist comes up, am I to rubber stamp the recommendation of the representative of the field, or do I ask for the representative to explain just what it is that is troubling them about their standard of practice that is questionable in this case, so I can understand what it is I'm about to vote on? If I don't ask, then this position on the Board, in fact all positions on the Board, are just a rubber stamp waste of time. The decisions about an applicant have been made before we met, by the expert in the field. So I ask to understand the standard of practice in the field of physical therapy to better understand what I'm about to vote on, and it takes time. The dentist wasn't sure either, so there's more time taken. It seems to me very unlikely we're going to be able to stick to the allotted

time for this agenda item. How long do you expect these meetings to take? I'd plan on a lot more time. With the diversity of the composite boards proposed, I'd say you have the equivalent of a jury of citizens. And for the evidence to be presented, the standard of practice to be presented, and its violation to be understood by the other members of the board, time will have to be taken. The Citizens Health Board will be the equivalent of a Grand Jury with only the prosecutors presenting all the information, the prosecutors in this case being the representative of the profession (expert in the field). I find it hard to think this is going to be less time consuming and more cost efficient. How long do you think this Board is going to meet? Are you really going to find people with the time to volunteer for this board? Even jurors are paid \$25.00 a day to sit through this process, let alone professionals being asked to volunteer their time.

I personally haven't any interest in the practice of Occupational Therapy, and might have to go back to work when their cases are presented. The present system relies on volunteers in their professions, with an interest in their professions, volunteering their time and energy to protect the area of interest not just politically, but from those in practice who shouldn't be in practice in the first place. Who can afford to spend a lot of time on professions in which they have no expertise, no interest, and who could have standards actually antithetical to my own. Did the dentist who removed the wisdom tooth act outside his area of expertise? Should an oral surgeon have been consulted? Time, time, and more time is money.

Well, all that these Boards are doing is licensing under our proposal. Just giving tests and deciding who passed or not. The Board of Nursing is involved with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and is responsible for giving the NCLEX-RN. Active participation in these organizations and formulation of the questions in the national exam, keep Alaska up-to-date and a leader in the national organizations. The administering of the RN licensing exam is part of this participation at a national level. It assures that a nurse licensed in Alaska can get a license in another state, and vice versa. I'm not sure who you plan to have going to these organizations or participating in their activities on the part of nursing, but I hope it isn't the expert from the Citizens Health Board. They're still back at the voluntary meetings they agreed to when they said they'd be a member of the Citizens Health Board. I don't know what the other boards have to do to keep their national licensing status, but it is important to hospitals and nurses to know they can get nurses to Alaska in part due to the reciprocity involved with national exams. To do this, we must maintain our involvement with the national organizations. I suppose we could pay Per Diem and travel expense to someone from the State of Washington to come to Alaska to give the exam to the students in Anchorage (both ACC and UAA), but that costs money. Will the Division of Occupational Licensing be able to maintain participation in these national organizations. Have you checked? I can't find out. They want to know what the organization of the Citizens Health Board would be like and what level of nursing activity can be expected in their organizations. In FY 91, 85 students were licensed by examination, and 512 were licensed by endorsement as RNs, due to our participation in these national organizations. I have no idea what happens to the other professions. How about the Bar exams? What would happen if they weren't accepted nationally? Would you be here now?

Regarding the budget deficits of running the Division of Occupational Licensing and the Board of Nursing in particular, I have some interesting information about the numbers involved and it may apply to other boards as well. In 1990, Occupational Licensing notified the Board of Nursing that the board had a deficit in its expenses. The Board of Nursing responded and increased its biannual licensing fee, trying to be fiscally responsible. The license renewals occur on even years and the by the time the board had made its decision, the renewal licenses for 1990 had been sent out at the previous licensing fee rate. This year, 1992, is the first year the new license rate is to be in effect. The Division of Occupational Licensing couldn't provide for the Board of Nursing the effect of this change in renewal fees and I'm sure you can't see it in the statistics you've been provided. My concern is that other boards were also given this information and responded appropriately, but find their efforts and increases not reflected in the past performances of fiscal responsibility by their

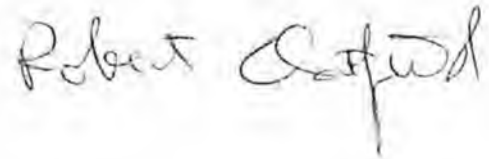
boards. The nature of licensing involves a time delay of a year or two. The deficit now encountered may go away due to the efforts made two years ago by the Division of Occupational Licensing. The difficulty occurs in understanding that time lag. Will the formation of the Citizens Health Board or any of the other consolidated boards change this? I don't think so. The Division finds the deficit involved with the Citizens Health Board and asks for increases. The Board responds and grants increased fees. One or two years later, the results of the increase are appreciated. What would happen if the Division of Occupational Licensing found it had an excess of revenue. I bet the Legislators would figure in the first year to have cut some of the state appropriations to the division, even though the division was only starting to play catch up with past deficits. In the second year, more was cut. The third year, there is a deficit and someone has to explain. Is there a problem? NO. It's just the cyclical nature of delayed recovery of funds.

I think I'm harping on the same old theme. The wheel isn't broken. It can always stand improvement, but from within the system where it is best understood. I don't pretend to understand this entire system, but I contend that neither do you. The changes that will improve the functioning of the board and commission system will come from within the system itself, not from those of us outside the system. I see the Division of Occupational Licensing as a kind of omelet that has specific ingredients added and in the end I can still find a specific item, mushroom or shrimp (Nursing or Dentist). To make this omelet better, I would go to the cook and say what I wanted to add or delete to make the omelet better. Then I'd let the expert in their field cook up the omelet in whatever fashion delivered the hoped for results. If I went and told them what to do to get the expected more desirable omelet, I know I'd get scrambled eggs.

It seems the consolidation of the present boards would produce nothing more than scrambled eggs. A dish of scrambled eggs in which if I looked for a place to take a question of policy or a grievance about how I'd been treated, I'd not find anyplace to go. No identifiable ingredient that could answer my question. No place that could tell me if I had a valid concern whether I was outside my field of practice or whether the scope of practice needed to be changed to accommodate my situation which in the end isn't unique.

I guess I have concerns regarding the amount of time and research you've been able to do. Also, the surety you have about the ability to actually save money of the people of the state with these proposals, while still providing a similar level of protection to the public and service to the professionals by consolidating the various boards.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Crawford". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed "Thank You,".

P.S. By the way, it seems the legal profession would be championing a the bit to have the Board of Governors of the AK Bar included with the Professional Services Board. Why not? What guidelines have you applied?

March 3, 1992

Senator Drue Pearce
Chair of Labor and
Commerce Committee
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Pearce:

I am writing to you in regard to House Bill 165, that is, the extension of the Board of Nursing. In 1990, the Alaska House of Representatives recommended that there be an eight year extension to the Alaska Board of Nursing. The Board of Nursing represents and monitors the practice of over 5,000 registered nurses in the State of Alaska. The initiative to combine the medical, dental, pharmacy, and nursing boards into a super board is not acceptable to registered nurses in the Alaskan community.

Nurses, held to the national standards required of registered nurses, are better served by nurses exercising supervisory power over nurses licensed by the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Linda A. Webb, R.N., J.D.

LAW:pp
LAW9

7613 HIGHLANDER DRIVE
ANCHORAGE AK 99516



SENATOR DRUE PEARCE
CHAIR OF THE LABOR AND
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
STATE CAPITAL
JUNEAU AK 99811



I support extending the Alaska Board of Nursing as a separate Board. The health and safety of Alaskans are served well by this Board as it functions now.

Signed:

Date:

Barbara McCullay

3 March 92

address: P.O. Box 83259
Fairbanks AK
99708



TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.

CHIEF ANDREW ISAAC HEALTH CENTER

1638 COWLES STREET

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-5999

PHONE (907) 451-6682 FAX (907) 451-1002

MAR 9 1992

March 4, 1992

Senator Drue Pearce, Chair
Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811.

Dear Senator Pearce:

As a health care administrator and as a manager in a Native, non-profit regional corporation, I am writing to you and the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee to support HB-165, "An Act extending the Board of Nursing in the Department of Commerce and Economic Development; and providing for an effective date."

Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center (CAIHC) is operated by Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc., under a Public Law 93-638 contract with the Indian Health Service. CAIHC serves Native people in Fairbanks and about 35 communities in interior Alaska. Our ambulatory clinic employed 25 nurses at some time during the last year. Particularly because the labor pool for nurses in our community is somewhat dependent upon the military, there is relatively high turnover in nursing staff. State licenses for nurses are essential in the hiring process. This assures that nurses are qualified and prepared to do the job for which they are hired. It also reduces our liability and it is a necessary component in the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organization (JCAHO) accreditation which the Indian Health Service contract requires.

I understand that license fees cover most of the cost of Board of Nursing activities. While some people suggest that this could be done by a professional organization or a private corporation, I believe it should remain a state responsibility. The Board of Nursing has the authority to investigate complaints. With the number of providers impaired by alcohol and drugs in all health care professions, it is essential that the State's powers to investigate be maintained in order to protect consumers. Furthermore, in Alaska we have nurse practitioners who are practicing independently in various small communities throughout the state. Again, to assure consumer protection, the credentials

of these nurse practitioners must be reviewed by a board with authority granted by the State.

The proposal to combine the Board of Nursing with other boards is not a good idea at this time. In the last decade or so, nursing has undergone some fairly dramatic changes. There is a wide variety of training throughout the country. Particularly for older nurses who received their training years ago, it is often difficult to match the training with the licensing requirements. Only professional nurses can make these distinctions with credibility. With the leadership and independence accorded to nurses in recent years, the State Board of Nursing empowers them to have more control over their profession. To eliminate this power would be a major step backwards for what traditionally has been a profession dominated by women.

Health care is a huge industry in our state and in our nation. Nurses comprise a large segment of this work force. Both for consumer protection and for administrative efficiency, the Board of Nursing should be maintained in its present form.

Sincerely yours,



Mim Dixon
Health Center Director

MD:md

cc: Interior Delegation

Patricia Dooley
8701 Kathleen
Anchorage AK 99507
392



USA 19

Senator Dan Pearce
Chair
Labor + Commerce Comm.
State Capital
Juneau AK 99811

LETTER SENT 3/5

Dear Senator -

This post card is to express my
strong feeling as a Nurse that HB
165 Extension of the Board of Nursing
be passed out of committee. Each
Health Care discipline needs a
Board to specifically address that
groups needs + concerns. Please
move HB 165 out of committee -
Thank you - Patricia
Dorley RW

March 5, 1992

Senator Drue Pearce
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Pearce:

As you are aware, the Governor has appointed a task force to evaluate all Boards and Commissions. As a result, HB 165, which renews the Alaska Board of Nursing for four years, remains in your Labor and Commerce Committee. If HB 165 is not approved, the Board of Nursing will cease to exist.

As a Registered Nurse, I urge you to support HB 165, and vote for full renewal for the Board of Nursing. As one of approximately 5,000 RNs in the state, I know how effective the board has been in implementing the Alaska Nurse Practice Act. The regulations written and approved by the Board are well respected and emulated throughout the country.

The Board has a major role in protecting the public from receiving care from unqualified or impaired nurses. The present structure allows for rapid, unbiased investigation and fair disciplinary action. A board with less equitable representation from the full range of nursing practice (administration, education, nurse practitioner, staff RN, staff LPN, and a public member) would be slower to respond to complaints from the public, as consultation from outside experts would have to be obtained.

Your vote and support in granting the Board of Nursing full renewal allows the nursing community to continue to deliver safe, quality health care to all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Margaret Auble, R.N.
Margaret Auble R.N.

Margaret Auble
2961 Bass St.
Anchorage, Alaska
99507



Senator Drue Pearce
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box J (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska
99811



March 10, 1992

Senator Drue Pearce, Chair
Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Pearce,

On behalf of the nurses employed at Home Health Care - Providence Hospital and myself, I would like to object highly to Governor Hickel's plan for consolidation of the numerous boards in our state. Of particular concern to me is the proposed Citizens Health Board to encompass nursing, medicine, dentistry, optometry, physical and occupational therapy, and chiropractic care; and the Behavioral Sciences Board which would include social workers.

From a financial standpoint, I can certainly understand the Governor's need to reduce the \$40,000,000 annual burden of the occupational licensing division. What I do not appreciate, however, is the proposed management of the Nurse Practice Act in Alaska by non-nurses. I have been licensed in six states and have professionally interrelated with those respective boards of nursing over the years, but have found the Alaska Board of Nursing the most responsive and supportive board of all. A classic example is the manner in which they assisted all the home care providers in the state to comply with the OBRA '87 regulations for certification of home health aides in August of 1990. Their ongoing commitment to aide certification reaffirms their professionalism.

I urge you to pass HB 165, Extension of the Board of Nursing, out of the Committee on Labor and Commerce for the professional well-being of over 5,000 nurses in Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay S. Irons".

Kay S. Irons, R.N.
Director

PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL

3200 PROVIDENCE DR
PO BOX 190004
ANCHORAGE ALASKA 99519-0004
PHONE (907) 562-2211



SISTERS OF
PROVIDENCE

SERVING IN THE WEST SINCE 1850

Fax Transmission Form

Date: 03-10-92

Fax Number: (907) 463-5352

To: Senator Druce Pearce

Company: State Capitol

Department: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (907) 561-2038 (Anchorage)

From: Kay Irons

Fax Number: (907) 261-3042

Company: Home Health Care

NO. of Pages: 2

Address: 3200 Providence Dr.

Department: _____

Telephone: (907) 261-3173

COMMENTS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR PEARCE

NAME: EFFIE GRAHAM, RN
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2033 JAMES TOWN CIRCLE
CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99507
PHONE: 344-7556
BILL NO: HB 165
SUBJECT: EXTEND BOARD OF NURSING
MESSAGE: REQUEST IMMEDIATE CALENDARING OF HB 165. NECESSARY THAT ACTION BE
TAKEN THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION. /BN

POMID: 03120039
DATE: 92/03/10
TIME: 12:00:39
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

Nurses letter
BOTH
LETTERS
WENT OUT
TO THESE GALS.

MAR 10 1992

704 Perry,
Fairbanks, AK 99701
March 1, 1992

Dear Senator Pearce,
I am writing this letter to urge you to support retention of the Alaska Board of Nursing. It is essential for the protection of medical consumers in Alaska and for effective coordination of the profession that nurses make decisions related to nursing.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns. I am appalled at the idea of our state regressing.

Sincerely,

Pantone Dickey
RN ANP

LETTERS SENT!

NURSES!

MAR 12 1992

2421 TASHA DRIVE
ANCHORAGE, AK. 99502
MARCH 10, 1992

SENATOR DRUE PEARCE, CHAIR
LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, AK. 99811

DEAR SENATOR PEARCE:

THIS LETTER CONCERNS THE PASSAGE OF HB 165 OUT OF COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE ALASKA ~~ADULTERATING NURSING~~ TO CONTINUE TO EXIST. LAST YEAR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RECOMMENDED AN EIGHT YEAR EXTENSION. I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF A "GENERIC SUPER BOARD." WITH 5,000 NURSES IN STATE I FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN OUR AUTONOMY.

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF NURSING.

YOURS RESPECTFULLY,

Connie M. Fedlermann R.N.

CONNIE M. FEDERMANN S.M.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR PEARCE

NAME: MARY LARSEN
TITLE:
ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 984
CITY: WARD COVE ZIP: 99928
PHONE: 247-8394
BILL NO: SB 7
SUBJECT: STATE AID FOR EDUCATION
MESSAGE: PLEASE PASS SB7 WITH \$63,000 PER UNIT FUNDING FOR ALL SCHOOLS AS OUR CHILDRENS FUTURES ARE AT STAKE.

POMID: 08150604
DATE: 92/03/12
TIME: 15:06:04
LIONAME: KETCHIKAN LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

ADAMS
COLLINS
COTTEN
CRAFT
DUNCAN
ELIASON
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
HOFFMAN
JONES
KERTTULA
MENARD
FOURCHOT
RCDEY
SHULTZ
STURGULEWSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR PEARCE

NAME: MARGARET BJORNTON
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 4745 PIPER, #7
CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99507
PHONE: 561-4473
BILL NO: HB 165
SUBJECT: EXTEND BOARD OF NURSING
MESSAGE: PLEASE PASS IT OUT OF COMMITTEE SO THAT THE NURSES COULD BE REGULATED BY NURSES. /CHR

POMID: 03160542
DATE: 92/03/12
TIME: 16:05:42
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

*need to
do the
nurses
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HB

168

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5/17/91

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John Hansen - 2581

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 168 (JUDICIARY)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES CHOQUETTE, Zawacki

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to charitable gaming extending from five to 15 years the period during
2 which a person is prohibited from participating in certain charitable gaming activities
3 following a conviction of a felony or release from prison or parole as a result of a felony
4 conviction; and providing for an effective date."

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

6 * Section 1. AS 05.15.020(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) A municipality or qualified organization may conduct an activity permitted under this
8 chapter, if the municipality or qualified organization pays the appropriate permit fee and receives
9 an annual permit issued by the department. The annual permit fee is

10 (1) \$20 for an applicant that did not hold a permit during the preceding year;

11 (2) \$20 for an applicant that had gross receipts of less than \$20,000 from
12 activities conducted under this chapter during the preceding year;

13 (3) \$100 [~~\$50~~] for an applicant that had gross receipts of \$20,000 or more but not
14 exceeding \$100,000 from activities conducted under this chapter during the preceding year; or

1 (4) \$250 [\$100] for an applicant that had gross receipts exceeding \$100,000 from
2 activities conducted under this chapter during the preceding year.

3 * Sec. 2. AS 05.15.020(a) is repealed and reenacted to read:

4 (a) A municipality or qualified organization may conduct an activity permitted under this
5 chapter, if the municipality or qualified organization

6 (1) applies for a permit, pays the appropriate permit fee, and receives an annual
7 permit issued by the department; and

8 (2) designates a member in charge and at least one alternate member in charge
9 under AS 05.15.112 who have passed the examination required by AS 05.15.112.

10 * Sec. 3. AS 05.15.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

11 (c) An applicant for a multiple-beneficiary permit under AS 05.15.100(d) shall pay a fee
12 of \$100, in addition to the fee that the applicant would have to pay under (a) of this section if
13 the applicant were applying for an individual permit.

14 * Sec. 4. AS 05.15.020(c) is repealed and reenacted to read:

15 (c) An applicant for a multiple-beneficiary permit under AS 05.15.100(d) shall pay a fee
16 of \$100, in addition to the fee that the applicant would have to pay under (d) of this section if
17 the applicant were applying for an individual permit.

18 * Sec. 5. AS 05.15.020 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

19 (d) The annual permit fee under (a) of this section is

20 (1) \$20 for an applicant that did not hold a permit during the preceding year;

21 (2) \$20 for an applicant that had gross receipts of less than \$20,000 from
22 activities conducted under this chapter during the preceding year;

23 (3) \$100 for an applicant that had gross receipts of \$20,000 or more but not
24 exceeding \$100,000 from activities conducted under this chapter during the preceding year;

25 (4) \$250 for an applicant that had gross receipts exceeding \$100,000 from
26 activities conducted under this chapter during the preceding year or that is one of the applicants
27 for a multiple-beneficiary permit under AS 05.15.100(d).

28 * Sec. 6. AS 05.15.030(c) is amended to read:

29 (c) If a permittee or licensee changes the location of an activity in the jurisdiction for
30 which a permit has been issued, the permittee shall notify the department and the local
31 government at least 15 days before [WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER] moving to the new location.

1 * Sec. 7. AS 05.15 is amended by adding a new section to read:

2 Sec. 05.15.035. PERSONS PROHIBITED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE
3 OPERATION OF CHARITABLE GAMING ACTIVITIES. (a) A person described in (b) of this
4 section may not

- 5 (1) be issued an operator's license under AS 05.15.122;
- 6 (2) be issued a manufacturer's license under AS 05.15.181;
- 7 (3) be issued a distributor's license under AS 05.15.183;
- 8 (4) act as a member in charge or alternate member in charge under AS 05.15.112;

9 or

10 (5) perform personal services for a permittee or licensee under this chapter in a
11 managerial or supervisory capacity, whether the person is an employee of the permittee or
12 licensee ^{or} ~~if~~ whether the person is engaged by the permittee or licensee as an independent
13 contractor.

14 (b) A person may not be issued a license or engage in conduct described in (a) of this
15 section if the person

- 16 (1) has been convicted of, in prison for, or on parole for a felony within the
17 preceding 15 years;
- 18 (2) has been convicted at any time of a crime involving theft or dishonesty;
- 19 (3) has been convicted at any time of a violation of a municipal, state, or federal
20 gambling law; or
- 21 (4) is the spouse of a person described in (1) or (3) of this subsection.

22 * Sec. 8. AS 05.15.060 is amended to read:

23 Sec. 05.15.060. REGULATIONS. The department shall adopt regulations under the
24 Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62) necessary to carry out this chapter covering, but not
25 limited to,

- 26 (1) the issuance, renewal, and revocation of permits, [AND] licenses, and vendor
27 endorsements;
- 28 (2) a method of ascertaining net proceeds, the determination of items of expense
29 that may be incurred or paid, and the limitation of the amount of the items of expense to prevent
30 the proceeds from the activity permitted from being diverted to noncharitable, noneducational,
31 nonreligious, or profit-making organizations, individuals, or groups;

1 (3) the immediate revocation of permits, [AND] licenses, and vendor
2 endorsements authorized under this chapter if this chapter or regulations adopted under it are
3 violated;

4 (4) the requiring of detailed, sworn, financial reports of operations from
5 permittees, [AND] licensees, and vendors including detailed statements of receipts and
6 payments;

7 (5) the investigation of permittees, licensees, vendors, and their employees,
8 including the fingerprinting of those permittees, licensees, vendors, and employees whom the
9 commissioner considers it advisable to fingerprint;

10 (6) exclusion from participation as a permittee, licensee, vendor, or employee of
11 a permittee, [OR] licensee, or vendor, of a person convicted of, in prison for, or on parole for
12 a felony within the preceding five years, or convicted of a crime involving theft or dishonesty
13 or of a violation of a municipal, state, or federal gambling law;

14 (7) the method and manner of conducting authorized activities and awarding of
15 prizes or awards, and the equipment that may be used;

16 (8) the number of activities that may be held, operated, or conducted under a
17 permit during a specified period; however, the department may not allow more than 14 bingo
18 sessions a month and 35 bingo games a session to be conducted under a permit; the holders of
19 a multiple-beneficiary permit under AS 05.15.100(d) may hold, operate, or conduct the
20 number of sessions and games a month equal to the number allowed an individual permittee
21 per month multiplied by the number of holders of the multiple-beneficiary permit;

22 (9) a method of accounting for receipts and disbursements by operators and
23 vendors, including the keeping of records and requirements for the deposit of all receipts in a
24 bank;

25 (10) the disposition of funds in possession of a permittee, [OR] a person,
26 municipality, or qualified organization that possesses an operator's license, or a vendor at the
27 time a permit, [OR] a license, or a permit that includes a vendor endorsement is voluntarily
28 surrendered, not renewed, suspended, revoked, or otherwise invalidated;

29 (11) restrictions on the participation by employees of the Department of Fish and
30 Game in salmon classics;

31 (12) other matters the commissioner considers necessary to carry out this chapter

1 or protect the best interest of the public.

2 * Sec. 9. AS 05.15.060 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

3 (b) Regulations adopted by the department under this section relating to charitable
4 gaming activity involving pull-tabs must be consistent with the standards on pull-tabs of the
5 North American Gaming Regulators Association.

6 * Sec. 10. AS 05.15.070 is amended to read:

7 Sec. 05.15.070. EXAMINATION OF BOOKS AND RECORDS. The commissioner may
8 examine or have examined the books and records of a permittee, an operator, a vendor, or a
9 person licensed to manufacture or to distribute pull-tab games in the state. The commissioner may
10 issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records, and other
11 documents.

12 * Sec. 11. AS 05.15.095(a) is amended to read:

13 (a) The applications and reports to the department required by this chapter shall be signed
14 under penalty of unsworn falsification by the following person, as applicable:

- 15 (1) the member in charge for the qualified organization;
16 (2) a person authorized to sign on behalf of the municipality;
17 (3) the operator or the operator's agent;
18 (4) the licensed pull-tab distributor or the distributor's agent; [OR]
19 (5) the licensed pull-tab manufacturer or the manufacturer's agent; or
20 (6) the owner of a vendor or the owner's agent.

21 * Sec. 12. AS 05.15.095(b) is amended to read:

22 (b) A permittee, [OR] operator, or vendor may not conduct an activity under this chapter
23 during a period in which a report or fee is delinquent.

24 * Sec. 13. AS 05.15.100 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

25 (d) The commissioner may issue a multiple-beneficiary permit to two to six
26 municipalities or qualified organizations or to a combination of two to six municipalities and
27 qualified organizations that apply jointly for the permit. The permit gives the permit holders the
28 privilege of jointly conducting the activities specified in (a) and (b) of this section, subject to the
29 restrictions set out in (b) of this section.

30 (e) The department shall revoke the permit of a permittee, including a multiple-
31 beneficiary permittee, that does not report for each quarter an adjusted gross income of at least