From: Hoskinson, Glenn A (CED)
To: Morley, Lisa A (HSS)
Cc: Robert Sivertsen (rwsivertsen@gmail.com); Thompson, Lesley M (HSS); Chambers, Sara C (CED)
Subject: RE: Nurse Licensure Compact Legislation: SB 67
Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 4:17:16 PM
Attachments: AARP Support for NLC (2.19.20).pdf
SB 179 from DHSS Commissioner Crum 3.12.2020.PDF
Julie Taylor (Alaska Regional Hospital) 3.4.20.pdf

Hi Lisa,

Thank you so much for the offer. I would love to speak to the Commission about the benefits of joining the Nurse Licensure Compact on Thursday. I would also like to include Director Sara Chambers to present with me if she's available. Could you please clarify what we should prepare for the presentation (i.e., do we need a PowerPoint presentation, or should we simply plan to provide a verbal presentation and answer questions)?

To answer Lesley's earlier email from yesterday (and I'm sorry it took me a day to get back on that), the Alaska Nurses Association (AaNA) was the only opposing organization to the NLC legislation last year. AaNA noted five (5) main concerns with joining the compact (noted below). We met with them last year and explained that the State Board of Nursing does not agree with these concerns, at that the concerns appear to be relevant to the previous version of the NLC (which the Board of Nursing did not support), but not to the enhanced version of the NLC which was adopted/implemented in 2017-2018, replacing the previous version. They have continued to list these five concerns are reasons not to adopt the NLC in Alaska, but we are unsure why that is.

Lesley also asked for copies of letters of support that were provided for the NLC bill last year (HB 238/SB 179). I'm attaching letters from AARP, DHSS, and the Alaska Regional Hospital. We have many others, so if you'd like to see those – or if you're interested in seeing the results of the survey we sent out to all Alaskan Nurses at the end of the 2019 to gauge interest in joining the NLC, just let me know.

Below are the concerns listed by the Alaska Nursing Association, and our feedback on each of those individual concerns:

- **AaNA: Loss of State Sovereignty.**
  DCCED/Board of Nursing: Full authority over practice in Alaska. The Alaska Board of Nursing will still have full authority over the practice of Nursing in Alaska. If a multi-state licensed nurse commits a violation while practicing in Alaska, the Board of Nursing will investigate the complaint (just as they do with complaints now) and have full authority to tell the licensee they can no longer practice in Alaska. They will then hand the investigation over to the licensee's home state for disciplinary actions.

- **AaNA: Threats to Public Safety:**
  - **AaNA: Inability to Monitor Nurses.**
    DCCED/Board of Nursing: Ability to Monitor Nurses Doesn't Change. While we do have a list of all 15,000+ nurses in Alaska, we never know when or where they're practicing in Alaska. There are nurses currently practicing in Alaska that do not require state licensure, such as those practicing on military bases, etc.

- **AaNA: Lower Standards for Nurses.**
  DCCED/Board of Nursing: The standards to obtain a multi-state licensure are higher than the standards to receive a single-state license in Alaska. Six of the eleven compact requirements are higher than Alaska's standards.

- **AaNA: Disciplinary Action and Criminal Offenses.**
  DCCED/Board of Nursing: The Alaska Board of Nursing still has full authority to deny a nurse the ability to practice in Alaska if they commit a violation. Anyone with a criminal history or practice-related misdemeanor won't qualify for a multi-state licensure, regardless from which state they try to obtain it. Furthermore, the compact improves communications between states in these matters, as a licensee will be "flagged", and all compact states will be alerted and able to communicate if a significant event occurs.

- **AaNA: Nursing Education Standards are Lower.**
  DCCED/Board of Nursing: All multi-state applicants need to have graduated from an accredited nursing school, taken the same national exam, and are required to comply with the continuing education (CE) requirements of their home state. While CE requirements can vary state-to-state, there is no evidence that extra continuing education results in higher competency or improved patient outcomes.

- **AaNA: Nurses Won't Stay Within Alaska's Scope of Practice.**
  DCCED/Board of Nursing: Just like today, each licensed nurse is required to know the laws of the state where they are currently practicing. Sometimes vary in the nursing scope of practice. This is similar to the driver's license compact. If you have a driver's license from Alaska and are driving in California, you must still know and abide by the traffic laws of California.

- **AaNA: Loss of State Revenue & Increased Financial Burden to Alaskans.**
  DCCED/Board of Nursing: Most states that have joined the compact do not see a loss of revenue. Additionally, licensees will have the option to apply for a single-state or multi-state license; and the fee structures will be separate for the two types of licenses (meaning single-state license fees will not go up because of the compact).

- **AaNA: Compact will not Solve Workforce Needs or Improve Access to Care.**
  DCCED/Board of Nursing: While joining the compact won't be the end-all-be-all solution, it's a tool in the toolbox to improve healthcare in Alaska. We do believe we'll be able to fill vacancies in the state by joining the compact and are also certain it will open more telemedicine opportunities. Furthermore, it will significantly improve Alaska's healthcare emergency preparedness infrastructure.

- **AaNA: Only non-residents want Alaska to join the Nurse Licensure Compact.**
  DCCED/Board of Nursing: The Alaska Board of Nursing sent out a survey to all Alaska-licensed nurses in the state (over 15,000 licensees) and received over 3,500 responses:
  - **Overall, 92% of respondents want Alaska to join the compact.**
  - 56% (2,018) of respondents hold primary licensure in Alaska. Of those licensees, 89% want Alaska to join the compact.
  - The Alaska nursing union has about 1,500 nurses. 743 nurses in a union responded to the survey: 87% want to join the compact, 6% had no opinion, and only 8% said they'd prefer Alaska not join.
  - Of the 1,379 licensees who currently only hold a nursing license in Alaska, 87% want to join the compact, 7% have no opinion, and only 5% don't want to join.

- **AaNA: The compact is controlled/governed by a private corporation.**
  DCCED/Board of Nursing: The compact is governed by a public organization comprised of members of each state. Furthermore, the compact is being set in Alaska statute by SB 67, which means the organization cannot change the requirements or law without input and buy-in from all participating states. Alaska would be a member of the compact. Further, the compact is governed by a commission which is made up of representatives from each participating state, meaning the Alaska Board of Nursing Chair and/or Executive Administrator will have a seat at the table and a voice in that commission.

- **AaNA: Alaskans will move out of Alaska once they get a compact license.**
  DCCED/Board of Nursing: We don't believe in "trapping" nurses in Alaska, nor do we think this is actually true. Furthermore, a nurse is required to apply for a multi-state license in their resident state (they can't "shop" states), and we believe it will encourage nurses to stay in Alaska, or at least return to Alaska, while expanding Alaska's healthcare workforce and hopefully filling some of the hundreds of nursing vacancies around the state. The incoming generation is very mobile, and they want to work in a compact state. We need to adapt if we want to fill some of our nursing vacancies.

Thank you,
Glenn Hoskinson

From: Morley, Lisa A (HSS) <lisa.morley@alaska.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 3:42 PM
To: Hoskinson, Glenn A (CED) <glenn.hoskinson@alaska.gov>
Cc: Robert Sivertsen (rwsivertsen@gmail.com) <rwsivertsen@gmail.com>; Thompson, Lesley M (HSS) <lesley.thompson@alaska.gov>
Subject: RE: Nurse Licensure Compact Legislation: SB 67

Hello Glenn,

Thank you for reaching out to me. We are having a Bi-weekly Legislative Teleconference this Thursday from 9:30-11 and would welcome your presentation and education about SB 67 if you are available.

To let you know, I have also heard from Shannon Davenport from the Alaska Nurses Association in opposition of this bill and was going to ask her to be a guest as well.

Please let me know if you are interested in attending and/or presenting.

Thank you,

Lisa A. Morley
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From: Hoskinson, Glenn A (CED) <glenn.hoskinson@alaska.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 2:27 PM
To: Office-JNU-HSS-ACoA (HSS sponsored) <hss.acoa@alaska.gov>; Morley, Lisa A (HSS) <lisa.morley@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nurse Licensure Compact Legislation: SB 67

Good afternoon Director Morley,

On Wednesday, Governor Dunleavy reintroduced legislation to allow Alaska to adopt the Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC): SB 67 – previously SB 179 in 2020. Last year, the Alaska Commission on Aging asked us to come present on the legislation – which we did on March 5, 2020.

During that meeting in March, it sounded like the Commission was in support of the legislation. However, COVID-19 hit a week or so later and legislation session ended much earlier than expected. I'm reaching out to you today in hopes that the Commission would be willing to consider supporting the bill this year. The legislation is supported by the Department of Health and Social Services, and healthcare facilities and nurses across the State, including ASHNHA and AARP.

I'm attaching the bill summary/section analysis for SB 67 along a one-page supporting document. These documents have not yet been published on the Alaska Legislature's website, but they will be once the bill is scheduled for a hearing – which we expect to happen once SB 56 passes out of committee. If you would like additional documentation and/or if you'd like us to come speak with the Commission again this year, please let me know. If you'd like to see copies of the letters of support last year from Commissioner Crum, ASHNHA, AARP, or others – I can get those to you as well.

Thank you!
Sincerely,

Glenn Hoskinson
Special Assistant to the Commissioner
Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
State of Alaska
Desk: (907) 465-6466