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PRESS RELEASE

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Alaska Entities Support Nurse Licensure Compact

Thursday, January 23, 2020 (Anchorage) – To address the growing need for nurses across the state, the Alaska Board of Nursing voted in August to support joining the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC), which will be proposed via legislation this session. If enacted, Alaska would join 34 states in utilizing the NLC multistate license as another powerful tool to expedite filling vacant nursing positions and hedging against slowed or ceased patient services.

The NLC's multistate license allows nurses the ability to practice in person or via telehealth in any of the states that have adopted the NLC. Licensing standards are aligned across compact states, requiring nurses voluntarily seeking multistate licensure to meet the same high standards. For nurses who qualify, the NLC eliminates the delays, duplication, and expense associated with state-to-state licensure.

According to a November 2019 survey of Alaska-licensed nurses, 92% supported joining the NLC. The NLC also receives strong support from military stakeholders like the Department of Defense.

Compact licensure helps address the registered nurse workforce shortage, both short- and long-term:

- Alaska hospitals currently have over 670 nursing vacancies.
- The nursing shortage in Alaska is getting worse, not better. According to the Alaska Department of Workforce and Labor Development and federal data, close to 50% of all Alaskan-licensed RNs are over the age of 45, and there is a 22.7% difference between nurse supply and demand which equates to a lack of 5400 nurses predicted in Alaska by 2030.
- A three-year report from the Alaska Commission on Aging states Alaska has the fastest-growing senior population in the nation.



Informational meetings with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and the Nurse Licensure Compact Commission are scheduled January 27 in Anchorage, January 28 in Fairbanks, and February 24 in Juneau. "The Board of Nursing is excited to have the opportunity to present information, listen to stakeholder input, and answer questions about the compact," comments Alaska Board of Nursing chair Danette Schloeder, MSN, RN.

These meetings are open to the public. For more details, please contact Board of Nursing Executive Administrator Marianne Murray at Marianne.murray@alaska.gov or 269-8194. Information on the compact is available at nursing.alaska.gov/NurseLicensureCompact.

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