



March 26, 2026

Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Chair  
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

Re: Senate Bill 124, Nursing: Licensure; Multistate Compact (version 34-GS1160\A)

Dear Chair Bjorkman, and members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

The Alaska Chamber (the Chamber) writes to support Senate Bill 124, an Act relating to the licensure of nursing professionals; relating to a multistate nurse licensure compact; and providing for an effective date.

The Alaska Chamber is the state's largest statewide business advocacy organization. Our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represents businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state, representing 58,000 Alaskan workers and \$4.6 billion in wages.

The Chamber has a formal policy position to support joining the multistate Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). According to the Alaska Chamber's 2024 statewide public opinion, we learned that 86% of Alaskans also support joining the NLC. There was broad consensus among every demographic in the state, among party lines, among geographic boundaries, and even among union and private sector employees.

The NLC is an agreement between states that allows nurses to have a single license to practice in any state that is a member of the compact. There are currently 41 states and two territories that participate in the compact, and it's the Chamber's hope Alaska becomes the 42nd.

Alaska is projected to have the highest nurse vacancies in the United States by 2030 with over 5,000 openings. The healthcare system is struggling to keep up with demand for nurses, which requires filling over 1,500 job openings annually. By allowing increased efficiency without lowering standards for nurses to obtain licensure in Alaska, the NLC will increase the pool of qualified candidates to fill critical vacancies, at a time when we need it most.

The healthcare sector outpaces all other sectors in Alaska in attracting nonresidents that ultimately become residents to our state. Joining the NLC will reduce delays in the licensure process, which are a known barrier for nurses who are looking to start their careers in or move to Alaska. Lastly, Alaska is also home to thousands of active duty and transitioning military members, many with spouses and family who are licensed nurses. By joining the NLC, it will help these individuals transition into our healthcare workforce.

In closing, the Chamber supports SB124 and encourages this committee to pass this straightforward and good for business bill. Thank you for considering the Alaska Chamber's comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kati Capozzi'.

Kati Capozzi  
President and CEO



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