



March 27, 2026

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee  
Senate Bill 124 Public Testimony

Chair Bjorkman, and members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. For the record, my name is Kati Capozzi and I serve as the president and CEO of the Alaska Chamber. I testify today in support of Senate Bill 124.

The Alaska Chamber is Alaska'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 annual wages.

The Chamber has a formal policy position to support joining the multistate Nurse Licensure Compact, commonly referred to as the NLC. Our membership voted on and adopted this position in 2022. The business community recognized then, as we do now, that to have a healthy economy, we need a healthy workforce. And a key component of having a healthy workforce means we need healthcare professionals here, in Alaska, to take care of Alaskans.

Alaska is projected to have the highest nurse vacancies in the United States by 2030 with over 5,000 openings. The healthcare system in Alaska is struggling to keep up with demand for nurses, which requires filling over 1,100 positions annually. We simply don't have enough nurses coming online each year to even come close to meeting the demand. For example, in 2024, the University of Alaska system graduated 222 nurses. The NLC will increase the pool of qualified candidates to fill critical vacancies, at a time when we need it most.

The NLC is a straightforward and common-sense concept tool that we should add to our toolbox for workforce recruitment. And this isn't just the opinion of the Alaska Chamber. We asked Alaskans in our 2024 annual public opinion survey if they would support Alaska joining the NLC. An astounding 86% responded with support. Notably, those who identified working in the healthcare sector responded with 84% support.

There are currently 41 states and two territories that participate in the compact, and it's the Chamber's hope Alaska becomes the 42nd state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.



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