

March 12, 2026

Representative Zack Fields, Co-Chair
Representative Carolyn Hall, Co-Chair
House Labor & Commerce Committee
State Capitol Room 124
Juneau AK, 99801
House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

RE: AHHA Supports House Bill 352 – Healthcare Licensing Compacts

Dear Co-Chair Fields, Co-Chair Hall, and Committee Members,

For over 70 years, the Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association (AHHA) has served as a non-profit trade association representing Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, and a growing number of healthcare partners across the continuum of care. AHHA members play an invaluable role, both as community providers and essential employers, in cities, towns, and villages across Alaska.

AHHA supports HB 352, which would enact four licensure compacts in Alaska: (1) Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; (2) Physician Assistant Licensure Compact; (3) Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact; and, (4) EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact.

AHHA is on record supporting licensure compacts with other states. Safe reciprocity is a modern, efficient method for issuing and honoring professional licenses. With the growing need for healthcare services in our population, employee churn, and exits or retirements from the workforce, the healthcare industry in Alaska must fill over 9,900 job openings in healthcare each year, including over 1,100 nurse openings. By making it more efficient for professionals to obtain licensure in Alaska, reciprocity will help increase the pool of qualified candidates that can fill critical vacancies quicker.

Supporting reciprocity and joining compacts with other states is nothing new for Alaska and most certainly not an affront to our sovereignty. Alaska has been a member of at least 32 multistate compacts across several industries. While “growing our own” is a crucial workforce strategy, it will take years to yield significant results, so we should do everything in our power to welcome professionals to our state.

Thank you for considering this legislation and for your commitment to advancing healthcare for Alaska.

Sincerely,



Jared C. Kosin, JD, MBA
President & CEO

Advancing Healthcare for Alaska

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