

2024 ISSUE BRIEF

Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)

Aligning with the Rest of the Country: Best Practices for Licensing Nurses

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) is one tool we can use now to help recruit nurses and get them to work faster. This reciprocity has been in use for over 20 years and makes it possible for qualified nurses to practice across state lines with a single license in 41 states and jurisdictions in the U.S. The NLC increases access to care while maintaining public protection at the state level - it does not lower standards or remove local control over practice.

- ✓ **Get nurses to work faster**
- ✓ **Aid recruitment and retention**
- ✓ **Support Alaska military families**

1 in 5 nonresident healthcare workers stay in Alaska.



In 2021, 1 in 5 workers from Outside became residents - nearly double the statewide average.

Alaska Nurses Support the NLC

The Alaska Board of Nursing and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing conducted a survey of all nurses actively licensed in Alaska (November 2023). Results show Alaska nurses are **STRONGLY** in favor of Alaska joining the nurse licensure compact - many respondents believe their work would be made easier and more effective through the implementation of the NLC.

- 4,593 nurses responded to the survey
- **92% of the respondents support Alaska joining the NLC**
- 85% of the respondents who identified as a union member support Alaska joining the NLC

Some argue that establishing license reciprocity with 41 other states and jurisdictions will lead to an exodus of Alaska nurses. This is false. 64% of the nurses who responded to the survey already hold an active nursing license in both Alaska and another state.

A Coalition of Support

Over 75 Alaska organizations - local governments, universities and colleges, and a broad coalition of healthcare businesses and organizations - support joining the NLC.

Our Workforce Problems Are Not Going Away

The combination of growth and turnover creates a need for about 8,000 new healthcare workers in Alaska each year, including nearly 1,400 registered nurses.

And it's predicted to get worse. By 2030, Alaska will have the highest nurse vacancies in the U.S. with over 5,000 openings and a 22% shortfall.

We can't meet the demand with "Alaska grown" nurses alone.

In 2022, Alaska produced just 324 statewide nursing graduates - less than a quarter of the 1,366 nurses needed to fill roles.

