



The Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association (AHHA) advocates for critical legislation and policies that support our member facilities and partners across the healthcare system so they are able to deliver high quality, accessible care for all Alaskans. Below are our four key areas of focus for 2023.

## Confront Healthcare Workforce Challenges

Alaska faces debilitating healthcare workforce shortages that threaten access to healthcare and economic stability.

- Growth, attrition, and turnover create the need for 7,500 new healthcare workers each year.
- Alaska will have the highest number of nurse vacancies in the U.S. by 2030.
- Alaska's healthcare training programs only graduate 841 professionals each year - nowhere near meeting demand.

## Support Legislation for Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)

NLC is a critical tool for addressing Alaska's severe nurse shortage, allowing nurses to practice across state lines with a single license. Joining the NLC will:

- Streamline Alaska's licensing process to get nurses to work faster across Alaska.
- Aid recruitment and retention of nurses.
- Help military members' spouses and family who are nurses to easily transition into our healthcare workforce.

## Pass Fully-Funded Medicaid Budget

With nearly one in three Alaskans covered by Medicaid, supporting the Medicaid program is vital to Alaska's healthcare infrastructure.

- Inadequate Medicaid reimbursement makes access to behavioral health and other core services impossible.
- Without strong community-based services, hospitals fill up with patients who don't need to be there.
- Alaska budgets less General Funds today than 10 years ago while providing coverage to 100K more Alaskans.

## Maintain Certificate of Need (CON) Laws

CON is used in most states to ensure appropriate allocation and availability of healthcare resources and prevent unnecessary duplication of services and costs.

- CON protects access to care for the indigent and uninsured, and it insulates the Medicaid budget from unnecessary costs.
- CON ensures a level playing field between hospitals and other providers not subject to regulatory and financial requirements.
- If CON is repealed, Alaska's per capita healthcare costs could increase by a rate of 20% above the national growth rate.