

March 13, 2023

Representative Jesse Sumner
Chair, House Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801
House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

RE: AHHA Supports HB 85 Temporary Professional Licensing

Dear Chair Sumner and Committee Members,

For 70 years, the Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association (AHHA) has served as a non-profit trade association representing Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, and other 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 House Bill 85, Temporary Professional Licensure legislation. This bill will help streamline the licensing process for the Alaska Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing and allow applicants with an out-of-state qualified professional license in good standing to begin working right away. We hope this legislation will make the process shorter and smoother for professionals seeking to obtain an Alaska license.

Alaska is experiencing workforce shortages for virtually all licensed health care professions, and it is critical that we streamline the process to allow qualified professionals to get to work quickly in Alaska. The [AHHA 2022 Healthcare Workforce Analysis](#) shows that approximately 7,500 new healthcare workers must be hired across Alaska every year to keep up with service needs (growth and replacement).

AHHA supports the improvements a temporary license process could bring to Alaska, however, this is not an alternative to enacting the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). We agree with the Division of Professional Licensing that the NLC is the very best option to address the nursing shortage in Alaska and reduce application processing times. Only the NLC will reduce the number of applications that come into the state.

We believe this legislation will complement the NLC as it will allow a pathway for qualified nurses from non-compact states to obtain a temporary license quickly and get to work. This legislation will create consistency across licensing boards on the process to obtain a temporary license.



AHHA urges the swift passage of HB 85 to provide one more tool to solve Alaska's healthcare workforce challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Kosin', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Jared C. Kosin, JD, MBA
President & CEO