



February 24, 2021

The Honorable David Wilson  
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee  
State Capitol Room 115  
Juneau, AK 99801

**Re: Senate Bill 67**

Dear Chairman Wilson:

The Alliance for Connected Care (the Alliance) is an advocacy organization dedicated to facilitating the delivery of high-quality care using connected care technology. Our members are leading health care and technology companies from across the health care spectrum, representing insurers, health systems and technology innovators, and our Advisory Board includes more than 25 patient and provider groups.

We are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 67. This legislation would allow Registered and Licensed Practical Nurses from 34 states to practice in Alaska as part of a Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact. These registered and practical nurses would not be subject to the burdensome licensing process. The bill would also allow nurses in Alaska to practice in those 34 participating states. Opening up Alaska to licensed nurses will help provide needed access to care across the state.

The increase in use of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted its ability to fill gaps in patient access to care. During the COVID-19 public health emergency, all 50 states and the District of Columbia used emergency authority to waive some aspect(s) of state licensure requirements to facilitate patients getting care. This has provided an unprecedented opportunity for patients, providers, and policymakers to explore the impact of cross-state care. This has benefited the delivery of health care in many ways, but perhaps most notably, it has opened up many new avenues for patient choice and access to care. Now is the time to build on this momentum.

One of the biggest barriers to telehealth becoming a regular patient and provider choice is the administrative burden caused by the variation in licensure requirements from state to state. Alleviating such administrative burdens through establishing multistate compacts that have reciprocity and that do not require additional licensing will help improve patient access to quality health care. It will also expand access to underserved communities in Alaska who may not have access to services they need where they reside.

We hope the Senate Health and Social Services Committee will support SB 67. Thank you for your consideration, we look forward to working with you on this important effort. Please contact Tharini Sathiamoorthy at 202-262-2511 or [tharini.sathiamoorthy@connectwithcare.org](mailto:tharini.sathiamoorthy@connectwithcare.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista Drobac".

Krista Drobac  
Executive Director  
Alliance for Connected Care