

## Letter from Senator Howard Marklein and Representative Nancy VanderMeer to State Legislators

August 3, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

You may have recently received emails from nurses in your district regarding a notification from the Department of Safety and Professional Services (below) relating to Wisconsin's involvement in the Nurse Licensure Compact. The NLC allows nurses in Wisconsin and other compact states the ability to practice in those states without pursuing an additional, duplicative single-state license.

In 2015, due to stagnant participation in the existing NLC, the Compact was updated and introduced as the **enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC)**. Since then, 21 of the 25 states that were in the original compact have adopted the eNLC in their states. Five additional "new" states will be joining the eNLC and two additional "new" states are pursuing legislation to adopt the eNLC. This Compact will go live on January 20, 2018.

If Wisconsin does not join the eNLC before the end of the year, nurses currently enjoying the benefit of a multi-state license – particularly near border states like Iowa – will be forced to apply for a duplicative single-state license in that other state. As many of you have already heard from nurses in your district, this will create unnecessary red tape and licensure barriers for nursing looking to practice in Wisconsin and other Compact states.

We have been working with stakeholders, including the Wisconsin Hospital Association and DSPS, to develop legislation that would adopt the eNLC in Wisconsin and allow DSPS to move forward with processing multi-state licenses – ensuring a seamless transition for nurses currently licensed through the Compact. While this is not solely a border community issue, it has a direct impact in communities like Platteville where nearly one in five nurses at the local hospital live in Iowa.

**We plan on circulating this legislation shortly and would appreciate your sponsorship of this legislation once it is released.** The eNLC has received strong support from key stakeholders in Wisconsin, including the Wisconsin Board of Nursing, the Wisconsin Organization of Nurse Executives (WONE), the Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA) and many individual nurses who have contacted you already. When the Board of Nursing solicited feedback from licensed nurses earlier this year regarding maintain membership in the nurse licensure compact, **98% of nurses responded in support of Wisconsin joining the eNLC and maintaining membership in this licensure compact.**

Sincerely,

Senator Howard Marklein

Representative Nancy VanderMeer