

Advocating for Progress: Why Michigan Must Join the Nurse Licensure Compact

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I recently had the opportunity to testify in the Senate in support of House Bill 4246, Nurse Licensure Compact. As a registered nurse in the State of Michigan and a representative of the American Nurses Association – Michigan (ANA-Michigan), I spoke not only for myself but also on behalf of the thousands of practicing registered nurses across our state. Our message is clear and urgent: Michigan must join the **Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)**.

Healthcare is changing rapidly. From ongoing provider shortages to increased patient mobility and unpredictable crises like pandemics and natural disasters, the demands on nurses have never been greater. As both a practicing nurse and a nursing leader, I've witnessed firsthand the challenges our workforce faces, especially the limitations imposed by rigid, state-specific licensing.

The **Nurse Licensure Compact** is a proven, practical solution. It allows regis-

tered nurses to practice across participating state lines with a single multistate license. This flexibility is no longer a luxury, it's a necessity. Joining the Compact will position Michigan to meet the healthcare demands of today and tomorrow more efficiently and equitably.

By becoming an NLC state, **Michigan will benefit in several crucial ways:**

- **Improved Access to Care:** Nurses will be able to serve patients in underserved rural and urban communities without bureaucratic delays.
- **Stronger Emergency Response:** During public health emergencies, natural disasters, or critical staffing shortages, nurses from other Compact states can respond quickly and effectively.
- **Support for Military Families:** With frequent relocations, military spouses who are nurses face licensing delays that disrupt their careers. The Compact eases this burden.

- **Competitive Edge in Workforce Recruitment:** Removing licensing barriers makes Michigan more attractive to top nursing talent in an increasingly mobile workforce.

Over **40 states have already joined the Nurse Licensure Compact**, and their healthcare systems are benefiting from a more agile, responsive nursing workforce. Michigan must not fall behind.

This is not a partisan issue, it's a **common-sense policy** that prioritizes patient care, supports the nursing workforce, and enhances public safety. On behalf of ANA-Michigan and the thousands of nurses we represent, I urge our state leaders to take this critical step forward.

Let's ensure Michigan's nurses are empowered to deliver the care our communities deserve, **when and where it's needed most.** ■



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