

Good morning. My name is Kate FitzPatrick, my regrets for not being able to join in person today.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective and support of the proposed Nurse Licensure compact, I am extremely encouraged to see this moving forward in VT.

I have been a practicing nurse for 32 years and have been licensed in 3 states both as an RN and an APRN

Currently I serve as the Chief Nursing Officer at the UVMMC and have about 1800 nurses that are part of our organization.

In my nearly 2 1/2 yr tenure at UVMMC, strategic nurse recruitment and workforce planning have been a top priority for me to assure we have competent/ qualified nurses caring for Vermonters in the future.

While we have had some success in attracting nurses from other states to come and work in VT – we do hope that increasingly we can continue to recruit out of state nurses to come here. Having the NLC in place will facilitate the transition of nurses relocating her from other parts of the country.

As the bill outlines, The Nurse Licensure Compact (the "NLC") will help ease administrative burdens to licensure and improve access to patient care by allowing nurses to practice freely across state lines with one license.

**From my perspective the NLC brings several key benefits:**

1. Establishes uniform licensure requirements so that all states have assurances that nurses practicing within the NLC have met a set of requirements regardless of the home state in which they are licensed in - (now includes federal background check)
2. Enables nurses to practice in person and provide telehealth nursing services to patients located across the country — improving ACCESS
3. Allows nurses to quickly mobilize across state borders and provide vital services in the event of a disaster
4. Supports nurses who live near state borders
5. Facilitates online nursing education and removes burdensome expense for nurses and for organizations that share expenditure for nurses

with multi state licensure

6. NLC helps military families. Military spouses are burdened with applying for a new nursing license each time the family must relocate. Under the NLC, the spouse's employment can continue seamlessly.

Having the NLC modernizes nurse licensure processes and supports increasing access to health care, protects patient safety and reduces costs while supporting state of the art approaches to care delivery.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support of S 232.