



March 6, 2024

Testimony of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities / Connecticut Center For Assisted Living (CAHCF/CCAL):

The Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities / Connecticut Center For Assisted Living (CAHCF/CCAL), a trade association of skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities. *Supports House Bill No. 5058, An Act Adopting the Nurse Licensure Compact, legislation introduced at the request of Governor Lamont.*

We believe that Governor Lamont has presented a proposal that demonstrates how our state joining the Nurse Licensure Compact addresses significant impediments to modern, cross border licensure practices. In his proposal, the Governor asserts:

Connecticut faces a shortage of nurses and nursing faculty to train the next generation of providers, which could have lasting effects on the quality of care available to patients throughout the state. Our current licensing structure poses barriers to modern, cross border practice and telehealth. Connecticut is one of the few states that has not yet joined the 41 jurisdictions as members of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). The NLC is one of a growing number of licensing compacts delivering seamless patient care, reducing regulatory burdens on healthcare workers, and increasing mutual aid during emergencies.

Governor Lamont's Solution Occupational licensing requirements preserve public health and safety, and we must adapt our occupational licensing programs to reflect the way that health care is delivered today. Governor Lamont proposes joining the 41 jurisdictions that have already joined the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) because it will improve access to care, ease the burdens of maintaining multiple licenses, and facilitate telehealth. Membership enables nurses to practice in person or

provide telehealth services to patients across the country without obtaining additional licenses. Membership in the NLC makes practicing nursing across state borders more affordable for nurses. Due to its national reach, the NLC will streamline the delivery of high-quality patient care, while increasing mutual aid during emergencies. A nurse with a multistate license immediately has the privilege to practice in 41 other jurisdictions. Connecticut's membership in the NLC will also allow out of state nurses to fill critical vacancies in nursing across the state, improving the quality of care and easing the burden on Connecticut's nurses who have worked tirelessly since the start of the pandemic. Joining the NLC will help to facilitate online nursing education by allowing educators to reach more students. Membership in the NLC also reduces the burden on organizations that employ nurses. (<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/2024-Legislative-Proposals/HB-5058.pdf>)

For these reasons, CAHCF/CCAL urges adoption of House Bill No. 5058, An Act Adopting the Nurse Licensure Compact.

For additional information on this testimony, please contact Matthew Barrett, President and CEO of CAHCF/CCAL, at mbarrett@cahcf.org.