



June 16, 2026

The Honorable Peter Welch
United States Senate
115 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tracey Mann
United States House of Representatives
344 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States Senate
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Neguse
United States House of Representatives
2400 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Angus King
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Welch, Blackburn, and King, and Congressmen Mann and Neguse:

On behalf of the 48 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we thank you for introducing the States Handling Access to Reciprocity for Employment (SHARE) Act (S.1101/H.R.2332). The NCC is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession, representing Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),¹ nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers. Together, the NCC appreciates the introduction of this important piece of legislation. We urge its advancement through committee and, ultimately, for Congress to pass the SHARE Act this year.

This bipartisan legislation makes necessary technical corrections to current law to ensure states belonging to interstate occupational licensure compacts receive federal criminal background check information through a smooth and efficient process. Currently, state licensing agencies may encounter unpredictable and inconsistent roadblocks when they request criminal background check results from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for the purpose of vetting prospective licensees under an interstate compact. The SHARE Act provides a much-needed technical fix to this roadblock by clarifying the FBI's ability to provide background check results to state licensing agencies when related to interstate compact licensure.

As this issue relates to nurses, nearly all states require that nurses submit to a federal criminal background check. This requirement helps ensure public protection. Unfortunately, inconsistent standards, protocols, and guidance related to the background check process have sporadically hindered

¹ APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

or delayed the operation of several state occupational licensure compacts, including member states implementing the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). This issue is not new. For over a decade, state licensing agencies and stakeholders have sought a federal solution to address the problem. This is where the SHARE Act comes in to ensure licensed professionals can have licensure mobility and patients can access safe care when and where they need it.

Nurses nationwide rely on the NLC for licensure mobility. The NLC eases a barrier to entry for RNs, APRNs who hold RN licenses, and licensed practical nurses who live in one of 43 participating states and territories.² More than 2.5 million nurses nationwide hold a multistate license under the NLC, which recently celebrated 25 years of successful operation,³ making it the largest and longest-operating interstate occupational licensure compact in the country. In addition, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has encouraged states to adopt the NLC as a means of supporting rural healthcare access.⁴ The U.S. military also supports licensure compacts as a key tool in bolstering healthcare access and employment opportunities for servicemembers and their families.⁵

The SHARE Act clarifies and will bring consistency to the process under which a state licensing agency receives federal background check results. Further, the bill ensures criminal history record information is maintained in the same manner as requests for all occupational licenses handled at the state level. In accordance with how compacts already operate, the bill specifies that criminal history record information cannot be shared with any entity other than a state licensing agency that requests the criminal background check, maintaining strong privacy and data-security safeguards.

As organizations greatly concerned with the nation's nursing workforce and patients' access to safe care, we urge Congress to pass the SHARE Act this Congress. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Minahan at rstenenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses

² Nurse Licensure Compact, "43 jurisdictions have enacted the NLC," (June 1, 2026) Retrieved from: https://www.nursecompact.com/files/NLC_Map.pdf.

³ NCSBN (2025), In Focus, "Reflections on the NLC 25th Anniversary in 2025," (June 1, 2026) pp. 32-33. Retrieved from: https://www.ncsbn.org/public-files/InFocus_Vol4_2025.pdf.

⁴ CMS's Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Rural Health Transformation Program. Opportunity number: CMS-RHT-26-001. <https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/instructions/PKG00291485-instructions.pdf>, accessed June 1, 2026, pp 83.

⁵ Dept. of War (2021), "DOD Receives Approval for Grants to Develop Interstate Compacts for Licensure Portability," (June 1, 2026), Retrieved from: <https://www.war.gov/News/Releases/release/article/2537098/dod-receives-approval-for-grants-to-develop-interstate-compacts-for-licensure-p/>; Dept. of War (2020), "DOD Makes Progress in Trans-State Professional License Agreements for Military Spouses," (June 1, 2026), Retrieved from: <https://www.war.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2092375/dod-makes-progress-in-trans-state-professional-license-agreements-for-military/>; Nurse Licensure Compact, "What You Need to Know: Federal/Military Nurses and Spouses," (June 1, 2026), Retrieved from: <https://www.nursecompact.com/files/2018MilitaryFactsheetFINAL.pdf>.

American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Nurses Association
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence
National League for Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
NurseTRUST
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

cc:

Chairman, Chuck Grassley, Senate Judiciary Committee
Ranking Member Dick Durbin, Senate Judiciary Committee
Chairman Jim Jordan, House Judiciary Committee
Ranking Member Jamie Raskin, House Judiciary Committee
Chairman Tim Walberg, House Education and Workforce Committee

Ranking Member Bobby Scott, House Education and Workforce Committee