



March 3, 2021

The Honorable Vince Fong
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2002
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 410 – SUPPORT
As Introduced February 3, 2021**

Dear Assembly Member Fong:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am pleased to offer our support for your Assembly Bill 410, which would enact the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

As you know, the Nursing Practice Act provides for the licensure and regulation of the practice of nursing by the Board of Registered Nursing. Additionally, the Vocational Nursing Practice Act provides for the licensure and regulation of vocational nurses by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians of the State of California.

AB 410 would authorize state licensing entities to issue a multistate license and allow the license holder to practice as a registered nurse or a licensed vocational nurse in all party states under a multistate licensure privilege. In addition, AB 410 would designate the Board of Registered Nursing as the licensing board for registered nurses and would designate the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians as the licensing board for vocational nurses.

California's healthcare system faces a critical nursing shortage and holds one of the worst nurse-to-population ratios in the country. The nursing shortage in underserved and rural areas impact an individual's ability to access quality medical services and threaten both nurse and patient safety. Without substantial, sustainable solutions, California will be short over 45,000 nurses by 2030. With chronic nursing shortages in rural counties, expanding the pool of eligible nurses is critical to building

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healthcare capacity, especially during the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.

With 34 states participating and 13 states with pending legislation, the NLC grants over 2 million nurses the opportunity to respond to the demand of providing nursing care across state lines. AB 410 will enable high-quality nurses to quickly relocate and provide relief to nurses and patients in California as well as utilize telehealth to increase access to care in underserved populations throughout the state. Taking this key step to address California's nursing shortage will result in better outcomes for patients and communities.

For the above reasons, RCRC supports your AB 410. If you should have any questions or concerns regarding RCRC's position, please do not hesitate to contact me at sdukett@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,



SARAH DUKETT
Legislative Advocate

cc: Members of the Assembly Business & Professions Committee
Consultant, Assembly Business & Professions Committee
Bill Lewis, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus