



# Say No to Compact!

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HB 580/SB 2068

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## WHY CCNBNA OPPOSE HB 580/SB 2068 Nurse License Compact (NLC)

There are 220,000 nurses holding license to practice in Illinois. There are 15,000 APNs

- There are 177,000 licensed nurses identifying Illinois as their state of residence
- There are 42,000 licensed in Illinois but their main residence is in another state.

This proposal today represents 20% of nurses who do not claim Illinois as their residence state but hold Illinois license to practice. Revenue loss of licensure fee funding nursing Programs at 3.4 **MM**

### Issues of what does a Compact pose to negatively impact our state:

- Illinois nursing licensure fee is among the lowest (tenth) in the country. (\$40/year)
- In a Compact the state of residence is the depository of the nurse licensure fee. The reduction of state revenue from losing 42,000 licensed nurses is \$3,360,000 (3.4 million!) How will loss of 3.4 million from Fee Fund for programs be addressed if Compact passes?
- Illinois over a decade ago required background checks for nurses – this was only recently added to the national Compact *proposal*. Illinois has protected the public in its nurse practice Act language. **Each state must first license its professionals**. Compacts don't!
- It is unclear in the proposal who will oversee nursing disciplines, licensure and data as we currently identify in our Nurse Practice Act. All licensing takes place first at our state level.
- There's a large amount of new language in the Nursing Compact proposal which takes Illinois oversight in many aspects of the regulating of nursing. **Compact is redundant**.

### The IL nursing fee fund currently supports Programs as well as state oversight and licensure:

- Scholarships Program (\$2 million) for LPN, RN BSN completion and Graduate degrees. The scholarship program also includes in loan forgiveness.
- Care, Counseling, & Treatment Agreement to encourage to self-report getting nurses into treatment avoiding disciplinary action. A particular portion of every licensure fee goes to the CCT program.
- Illinois Nursing Workforce Center who is the only profession within the IDFPR that conducts the voluntary data with licensure renewals to identify nursing workforce issues to meet the public nursing needs.
- The Center is a resource for current and future nursing students, nursing educators and those nurses already practicing in the field to find information on affordable education options and scholarship opportunities, grants for nursing schools and improvements to working conditions for nurses. **Licensure Fee funds** meetings of the Board of Nursing, Investigators for Disciplines including professional and nonprofessional staff & costs of three offices.

A requirement for a NLC is a Coordinated Licensure Information System (CLIS), or Nurses License Verification database? CLIS is undefined in HB 580/SB 2068.

With regards to "**mobility**" In March 2020 Gov. Pritzker invoked **Covid-19 Temporary Practice Permit** for licensed individuals including nurses to staff hospitals. This was created with the H1N1 pandemic the state has a template and proven to nimbly address emergency needs when required to meet staffing needs and public safety.

**Illinois does not need to steal nurses from other states. IL benefits from a reliable source of nurses!**

**One remedy to assure adequate supply invest into hospital-based nurse staffing - Safe Patient Limits (SPL).**

**CCNBNA recommends legislators regulate SPL to improve public safety with a starting point of nurse staff for every hospital unit in conjunction with a hospital-based acuity model developed and recommended by their own bedside nurse employees! Regulate nurse staffing. Invest in hospital nurse staffing to protect the public.**

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