



Date: February 15, 2023

My name is Kelly Hunt. I am a resident in HD 84 and am writing in opposition to HB409. I am a master's prepared registered nurse in the state of Montana. I have practiced in Montana for my entire nursing career spanning 15+ years and received my Master's in Nursing from Montana State University. I am the Director of Professional Development for Montana Nurses Association and work closely with Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) across the state in my daily work. I would like to state that I am not opposed to a compact for the APRNs in our state if it makes sense for Montana. In its current form, I do not believe HB409 does. In its current form, this bill creates additional burdens and unnecessary regulation for our current APRNs providing high quality care to our communities every day. I had the opportunity to attend testimony on HB409 and have some additional thoughts for your consideration.

Firstly, both opponents who testified are Doctorate prepared APRNs practicing in the state of Montana. No current APRNs testified in favor of HB409. At least 25 additional APRNs working across the state have emailed and/or called this committee regarding their opposition. APRNs speak to their practice. Listen to them.

The NCSBN (a non-governmental, non-regulatory agency) testified that the RN compact was the prototype for the model of the proposed compact for APRNs. Discussion on license mobility and decreasing barriers to recruiting APRNs to work in Montana were points in favor of the compact. With this said, provide the data which could highlight how many Montana nurses have utilized their compact licenses in other compact states and further produce data identifying how many nurses from other compact states, due to the compact, have been recruited to work in Montana since adopting the RN compact. The data is crucial to analyze and assess the impact this compact, if any, has had on nursing in Montana before even considering adoption of a compact for APRNs. This could provide insight into the potential benefit to a compact. Nursing is in a staffing crisis in our state and nation. Personally and professionally speaking as a Montana nurse, I have not witnessed or seen any data that the existence of a multi-state compact has provided relief from our crisis in any meaningful way. One must assess the data points that would allow for an informed analysis moving forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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