



July 13, 2026

Dear Members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA) and the Organization of Nurse Leaders –New England (ONL) we write in strong support of the States Handling Access to Reciprocity Employment (SHARE) Act, (H.R. 2332/S.1101), and ask for your support in its passage.

On November 20, 2024, Governor Maura Healey signed legislation adopting the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). However, implementation has been delayed due to roadblocks in requesting criminal background check results from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for the purpose of vetting prospective licenses under an interstate compact. As a result, multistate licenses cannot be issued in Massachusetts, and the compact cannot be implemented until FBI approval for these federal background checks is obtained.

The Nurse Licensure Compact matters enormously to Massachusetts. As a border state surrounded by compact members – including New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Maine – Massachusetts hospitals are at a distinct competitive disadvantage in recruiting nurses while implementation remains stalled. Hospitals across the commonwealth continue to face workforce shortages and rely on traveling and float-pool nurses to maintain safe staffing, particularly during seasonal surges and public health emergencies. Without full NLC implementation, Massachusetts hospitals face slower time-to-hire for out-of-state RNs, added administrative burden, and barriers to delivering telehealth nursing across state lines. Fully operationalizing the Compact is essential to keeping Massachusetts competitive with its neighboring states and ensuring patients have timely access to nursing care, in person and via telehealth.

The SHARE Act addresses the significant issue of inconsistent interpretations of criminal background check requirements across states. These inconsistencies have created barriers for states like Massachusetts in granting multistate licenses to nurses practicing under the Nurse Licensure Compact. This bipartisan legislation makes necessary technical corrections to current law to ensure states belonging to interstate licensure compacts receive federal criminal background check information through a smooth and efficient process.

Specifically, the SHARE Act provides two important fixes:

- It would streamline nurse licensure by providing state nursing boards consistent access to FBI criminal background checks, enabling better eligibility decisions for individuals seeking licensure under an interstate compact.
- It will ensure that state licensing boards have the tools necessary to make informed nurse licensure decisions, allowing nurses access to job opportunities in nearby states and enabling them to provide care – in person or via telehealth – wherever and whenever patients need it.

Thank you for your continued support of nurses and the healthcare workforce more broadly. We ask for your support in passing the SHARE Act to remove the licensing barriers preventing nurses from helping meet our

nation's healthcare needs. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

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