February 3, 2014

Jim Puente  
Director, Nurse Licensure Compact  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)  
111 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 2900  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Mr. Puente:

On behalf of the American Nephrology Nurses' Association's (ANNA) 10,000 RNs, NPs, and CNSs practicing in nephrology nursing with patients who have chronic kidney disease (CKD), including end-stage renal disease (ESRD), we would like to state our strong support for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's (NCSBN) State Licensure Compacts.

ANNA members, and the over 370,000 patients on dialysis, would all benefit from passage of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) in all fifty (50) states. Currently, nurses who work with large dialysis providers that have multiple dialysis facilities in a relatively small geographic area, do cross state borders with different patient-care assignments. This makes it necessary for the nurse to have multiple state licenses, even though they may work for the same dialysis provider.

In addition to nurses working in dialysis, we are aware that nurses working in telehealth, home health, and education and training that perform long-distance monitoring of patients, or do hospital follow-up care by telephone, or training in multiple states, would benefit from the Nurse Licensure Compact. Further, the general mobility of the nursing workforce, the unpredictability of natural disasters, and the omnipresent threats of bioterrorism all point to the need to accommodate nurses for cross-state licensure.

The following statements are excerpted from ANNA's Health Policy Statement:
ANNA supports the efforts of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to implement multistate licensure for health professionals through expansion of the interstate compact.

ANNA supports improved provision of and access to telehealth services, both distance learning for professionals and patients as well as treatment and home monitoring of patients with chronic diseases for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

ANNA is pleased to strongly support your efforts to bring more states under the State Licensure Compact. Please feel free to contact me for further information about nephrology nursing.

Sincerely,

Norma J. Gomez, MBA, MSN, RN, CNN
ANNA President 2013-14