



January 24, 2020

Chair Annette Cleveland
Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee
John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40449
Olympia, WA 98504

Ranking Member Steve O'Ban
Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee 220
102 Irv Newhouse Building
PO Box 40428
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: SB 6209: Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact of 2020

Chairman Cleveland and Ranking Member O'Ban:

On behalf of the American Telemedicine Association (ATA), I am writing to express strong support of SB 6209, *Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact of 2020*. The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has been enacted in 34 states and the ATA is pleased to see the State of Washington take an important step towards adopting the NLC and expanding access to care and telehealth services.

As the only organization completely focused on advancing telehealth, the ATA is committed to ensuring that everyone has access to safe, affordable and appropriate care when and where they need it, enabling the system to do more good for more people. The ATA represents a broad and inclusive member network of technology solution providers and payers, as well as partner organizations and alliances, working to advance industry adoption of telehealth, promote responsible policy, advocate for government and market normalization, and provide education and resources to help integrate virtual care into emerging value-based delivery models.

The NLC allows nurses to have one multistate license, in his or her state of residency, that grants the privilege to practice in other NLC participating states, both physically and remotely using telehealth. Utilizing telehealth nursing improves continuity of care for both urban and rural patients, especially those in underserved communities who may not have access otherwise. This is particularly important to enabling and delivering efficient, 21st century nursing care across state lines using digital health technologies.

We applaud your efforts to advance this vital legislation and encourage you and your colleagues, including members of the Committee on Health & Long Term Care, to vote in favor of this bill.

We believe the NLC would not only continue to protect patients, but also help drive better care coordination and healthcare outcomes for patients throughout the state. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss ATA's perspective on this critical issue please contact Kevin Harper, Director, Public Policy at kharper@americantelemed.org.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Mond Johnson", followed by a comma.

Ann Mond Johnson
CEO

AMERICAN TELEMEDICINE ASSOCIATION

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