

Oppose Nursing Interstate Compact (HD 2891/SD 1320). It's bad for patients.

“. . . (the interstate) pact also has allowed nurses with records of misconduct to put patients in jeopardy. In some cases, nurses have retained clean multistate licenses after at least one compact state had banned them. They have ignored their patients' needs, stolen their pain medication, forgotten crucial tests or missed changes in their condition, records show.”

~ USA Today, “Bad Nurses Allowed to Keep Working in Other States”

It's dangerous.

Under Compact, the Commonwealth would have no way of ensuring that disciplinary or bad actions of Compact nurses practicing in other states are reported to the Compact's database. This adds to the danger of having out of state or 'traveler' nurses practicing in MA.

It's costly.

Implementing the new systems and databases Interstate Compact requires will be costly. Massachusetts would also lose the revenue it currently collects from out-of-state license fees.

Many states that are part of the nursing Interstate Compact have NO continuing education requirements to maintain licensure.

Health care is evolving quickly. It is imperative that nurses, particularly in specialty areas, are trained and prepared to meet today's health care needs.

Let's not be part of a race to the bottom.

Massachusetts has high standards for nursing licensure. Let's not weaken those standards by unilaterally rubber-stamping licensure from nurses in states that have no continuing education requirements or background checks.

Bad nurses allowed to keep working in other states.

The media has documented numerous cases in which nurses move from state to state through the loose ties of the Interstate Compact to avoid job loss and prosecution.

A solution in search of a problem.

Nurses today from other states can petition our state's Board of Nursing for reciprocity or in-state licensure. And Massachusetts nurses can do the same in other states.

