

March 1, 2019

Sen. Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Rubio and Sen. Warren:

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) is pleased to support the Protecting Job Opportunities for Borrowers (JOBs) Act (S. 609). We commend you for introducing a bill that meaningfully addresses the issue of state license revocation resulting from student loan default.

NCSBN is an independent, non-profit association comprising 59 boards of nursing (BONs) from across the U.S., the District of Columbia and four U.S. territories. BONs are responsible for protecting the public through regulation of licensure, nursing practice, and discipline of the 4.8 million registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical/vocational (LPN/VNs) and advanced practice registered nurses in the U.S. with active licenses. NCSBN was created by these BONs to act and counsel with one another and to lessen the burden of government. The mission of NCSBN is to provide education, service, and research through collaborative leadership to promote evidence-based regulatory excellence for patient safety and public protection. Through NCSBN, BONs work together on policy matters that will affect patient safety, the future of nursing and health care.

As stated in our mission, NCSBN promotes evidence-based policies that protect the public from harm, while striving to reduce the burden of government. There is no evidence that removing a nurse's professional license due to student loan default hinders his or her ability to provide safe, competent care to patients. Therefore, states should not require a license to be revoked when a licensee defaults on a student loan.

Unfortunately, many state boards of nursing are required by statute, not regulation, to recognize student loan default as grounds for discipline or license revocation. NCSBN supports repealing all state laws and regulations permitting student loan default to be grounds for discipline. Safe and competent nurses should be allowed to continue practicing regardless of their student loan status.

We encourage other occupations to support this legislation as well, joining NCSBN's effort to encourage states to remove unnecessary licensing barriers that are not grounded in evidence-based policies that protect the public.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please contact Elliot Vice, NCSBN's Director of Government Affairs, at evice@ncsbn.org and 202-624-7781. We look forward to working with you to help this important bill become law.

Sincerely,



David C. Benton, RGN, PhD, FRCN, FAAN
Chief Executive Officer