



NLC: Celebrating 25 Years of Multistate Mobility Video Transcript

More info: <https://nursecompact.com/>

A quarter of a century ago, a bold vision was set. One that many doubted. Yet we persevered.

Today we stand on the foundation of that vision stronger than ever. Leadership is about vision, but it's about more than vision. It's about the courage, the discipline and the resources to get it done.

In the late 1990s, an exceptional group of regulators put a lot of time and effort into developing the original compact. It was truly a novel idea and was ahead of its time.

I think it was a mid-year meeting. I do, I can tell you it was at the Wyndham in Chicago, and I don't want to call it a barroom brawl, but it was pretty close. The level of emotion. It was exciting. It was intense. They told Kathy Thomas and myself that we just expected too much. And we took our infamous walk in the woods so that we can get to where we are.

It took 27 years of expecting too much and determination. It is that expecting too much and determination is why we all stand here today.

And this year marks our 25th anniversary and we're very excited to be celebrating 25 years of success.

Over the past 25 years, the compact has been a testament to the power of collaboration among the states to break down barriers and empower nurses to practice seamlessly across state lines. It was a game changer in nursing.

As proud members of the NLC, we've witnessed firsthand how this innovative model has strengthened the nursing profession, improved access to quality care, and streamlined licensing for nurses.

And today, 2.5 million nurses enjoy this benefit of a multi-state license. From flight nurses to camp nurses to home health nurses and obviously telehealth nurses.

Or even the younger nurses who maybe just want to travel the United States and see what it's like out there living in Denver versus living in Kentucky.

The whole eastern part of Nebraska was shut down due to flood waters. Five rivers all flooding at the same time. They had to bring everything in staff and supplies by Black Hawk helicopter. Because I knew the compact made sure that those licenses were ready to go, I could just go with those nurses and put them in those shelters, have them help the people that have been affected by those flood waters.

And we saw the beauty of the compact licensed during the pandemic with COVID. And that compact saved us. The vast majority of nurses that were coming into our state during that time were coming in

through the compact, and it served a lifeline to our health care institutions and systems in our state, but more importantly, to the citizens of our state.

It proved that the compact was not just an administrative convenience, it was a life saving innovation.

When my dad had to have open heart surgery, we didn't have to leave his community in a small community. The doctors and the nurses came right there to him from another state. And I can't be more blessed because I got a few more years with my dad because of that.

And that's our whole goal, was to increase access to care for patients. The ultimate winner is the patient. I believe we've done it right because the other health care professionals look to nursing as the model for licensure compacts.

Congratulations to the NLC for the first 25 years, and we look forward to the next.