

California Legislature

April 2, 2020

Kimberly Kirchmeyer
Director
Department of Consumer Affairs
1625 North Market Blvd., Suite N 112
Sacramento, CA 95834

Loretta Melby, RN, MSN
Acting Executive Officer
Board of Registered Nursing
PO Box 944210
Sacramento, CA 94244-2100

Dear Ms. Kirchmeyer and Ms. Melby,

On March 30, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-39-20, giving the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Board of Registered Nursing the authority to waive professional licensing requirements and issue temporary licenses. The purpose of this order was to add healthcare professionals to the workforce to ensure hospitals are adequately staffed to treat COVID-19 patients.

Because of COVID-19, California's hospitals have cancelled clinical rotations, leaving thousands of nursing students unable to graduate and begin treating patients in a time when their skills are in high demand. In a state with one of the worst nursing shortages in the country and an aging workforce, this inability for students to join the frontlines threatens to severely limit California's capacity to respond to COVID-19.

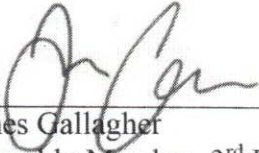
State law requires 75 percent of nursing students' clinical education to take place during rotations at hospitals, with simulation training limited to 25 percent. However, research has proven simulated education is not only sufficient in preparing nurses, but it also reduces medical mistakes in a clinical setting and better expands decision-making skills. During this pandemic, the governors of several states have waived the 75% direct patient care requirement for those students who are on schedule to meet the requirements for program completion/graduation either now or in the future.

Governor Newsom is calling upon nursing students to respond to the call for more healthcare workers and wants them to progress in their educational programs towards graduation. During this time of clinical placement closures for nursing students, nursing faculty need maximum flexibility to choose the pedagogic approach to provide clinical experiences that include direct patient care and other learning experiences to meet clinical course objectives, complete required coursework, and allow for consideration of student and faculty health and social situations at this time.

Given this, we hereby request that the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Board of Registered Nursing use the power granted in the Governor's executive order to grant nursing faculty the maximum flexibility necessary to meet course objectives during this pandemic. Doing so will allow for 14,000 nursing students to expeditiously join the fight against this outbreak.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Assemblyman Gallagher's Chico District Office at (530) 895-4217.

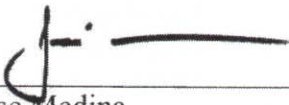
Sincerely,



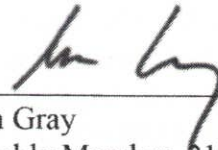
James Gallagher
Assembly Member, 3rd District



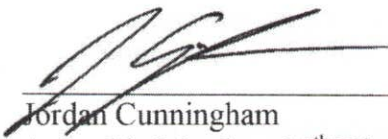
Scott Wilk
Senator, 21st District



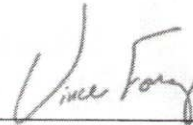
Jose Medina
Assembly Member, 61st District



Adam Gray
Assembly Member, 21st District



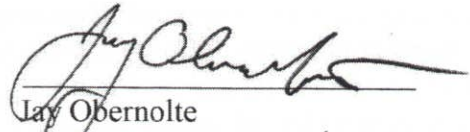
Jordan Cunningham
Assembly Member, 35th District



Vince Fong
Assembly Member, 34th District




Tom Lackey
Assembly Member, 36th District



Jay Obernolte
Assembly Member, 33rd District



Andreas Borgeas
Senator, 8th District



Tyler Diep
Assembly Member, 72nd District

D Mathis #26

Devon Mathis
Assembly Member, 26th District

Jim Nielsen

Jim Nielsen
Senator, 4th District

Shannon Grove

Shannon Grove,
Senator, 16th District

Cathleen Galgiani

Cathleen Galgiani
Senator, 5th District

Mike Morrell

Mike Morrell
Senator, 23rd District

Heath Flora

Heath Flora
Assembly Member, 12th District

Frank Bigelow

Frank Bigelow
Assembly Member, 5th District

Jim Patterson

Jim Patterson
Assembly Member, 23rd District

Megan Dahle

Megan Dahle
Assembly Member, 1st District

Cc: Governor Gavin Newsom