



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NAB Urges States to Approve Nationwide Standards for Nursing Home Administrator Licensing

"Interstate Licensure Endorsement" Would Ensure Entry-Level Requirements, Facilitate Movement of Administrators between Jurisdictions

Washington, D.C.-- State-level nursing home administrator licensing boards and agencies throughout the U.S. are faced with a historic opportunity--and a solution to a historic challenge.

The Challenge

Many differences in licensing requirements from one state to the next overly constrain the mobility of nursing home administrators. Administrators licensed in "State X" have to navigate a different set of requirements to seek licensure in "State Y." Some states set the licensure bar very low, others set it very high, and no nationwide standard exists.

The state-by-state patchwork of licensure processes can be perceived by experienced administrators as slow, inefficient, and poorly serves every long term care constituency. America's seniors and other care recipients deserve excellent service in facilities run by well-qualified administrators. Excellent administrators deserve to move expeditiously to serve nursing homes in different states. And all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, deserve the ability to attract top talent to serve their residents.

The National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long Term Care Administrators (NAB) has worked toward a solution for many years. In a major breakthrough, NAB's Board of Governors--which is comprised of representatives from state licensing boards and agencies--approved and adopted "principles of interstate licensure endorsement" at its June 17, 2005 Annual Meeting.

(more)

The Opportunity

By officially adopting the endorsement agreement and the criteria for endorsement developed by the representatives involved in the NAB process, state-level nursing home administrator licensing boards/agencies can provide a level, fair and predictable playing field for long term care administrators.

"This is exciting news for experienced administrators across the country, and is a positive reflection on the regulatory community to have recognized and worked together to reduce unnecessary barriers to licensure mobility," said Katrina Magdon, NAB president. "The difficulty of attracting and retaining qualified administrators in the long term care profession continues to be a significant challenge. It is incumbent on all stakeholders to remove barriers that do not compromise the quality and safety of the residents of long term care facilities to assure an adequate future pool of well trained and educated administrators."

The "NAB NHA Licensure Endorsement Agreement" establishes standards of education and experience that demonstrate equivalence to the most stringent entry level standards in the country. So no state need fear that this approach will dilute its own licensure requirements. Some participating states could realize cost efficiencies due to an expedited and more efficient approval process.

A copy of the agreement and standards has been sent to every nursing home administrator licensing board/agency, and the text is available on NAB's Web site at www.nabweb.org.

A list of the states that have already signed the agreement is attached. As this is an emerging document and many states haven't made their final decision, the NAB encourages continued discussion and collaboration among stakeholders.

NAB welcomes state representatives' questions and comments. Call Randy Lindner, NAB Executive Director, at 202-712-9040. Or e-mail him at rlindner@bostrom.com.

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