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WHA Weighs in on Board of Nursing Proposal to Eliminate Licensure Step

The Wisconsin Board of Nursing (BON) was briefed at their Aug. 11 meeting on an opportunity to eliminate a step in the licensing process that is causing bottlenecks for new grad nurses. Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS) Secretary-designee Dan Hereth asked the BON to eliminate the administrative rule that requires the board to approve applicants to take their National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

When asked if the change would expedite problems present in the new system, Hereth responded, "It will make it possible for applicants to test faster and will eliminate a current step for applicants and DPS staff." WHA and its members have been urging DPS to take action to streamline licensure processes. After Hereth's presentation to BON, WHA quickly sent a [letter](#) to BON Chair Robert Weinman, Secretary-designee Hereth and Governor Tony Evers supporting this first step in improving licensure processes.

WHA interactions with DPS and licensure boards regarding the need to streamline Wisconsin's licensure processes have been ongoing, even before successive COVID surges and rising vacancy rates increased the urgency with which delays must be addressed. Last August, WHA [asked DPS to prioritize health care licensure](#), and [DPS quickly responded](#) with a willingness to implement a short-term solution and expedite licensure when delays are identified.

For the past year, and at the request of DPS, WHA has been sharing reports of licensure delays received from WHA members. These delays have increased in frequency during the learning curve for a new DPS online application process implemented May 16, 2022, and it is evident there is more work to be done. As WHA Senior Vice President of Workforce and Clinical Ann Zenk noted in WHA's letter of support, "We look forward to continuing our involvement in reforms that allow licensure to perform its intended function of ensuring patient and consumer safety without creating barriers to care for patients and hurdles to health care careers."

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- [WHA Weighs in on Board of Nursing Proposal to Eliminate Licensure Step](#)
- [President Biden Signs Legislation Extending Enhanced ACA Subsidies](#)
- [Grassroots Spotlight: WHA Discusses Regulatory, Insurer Burden with Rep. Gallagher Staff](#)
- [GUEST COLUMN: Could Student Loan Repayment be a Deciding Advantage for Health Care Employers?](#)