

Re: Support for SB 2223

Senate Workforce Development Committee:

As a Licensed Registered Dietitian and a member of the North Dakota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics I am writing in support of the Senate Bill SB 2223, relating to the adoption of the dietitian licensure compact. This would provide easier access to nutrition care and provide continued care for patients who have established care with providers while living in the state of North Dakota. Benefits of this compact include:

- Providing nutrition care services in multiple states, either in person or through telehealth, requires RDNs to become licensed according to each state's requirements, which can be time-consuming and costly. A potential solution to facilitate cost-effective interstate practice for licensed registered dietitian nutritionists is a licensure compact.
- The mobility of licensed RDNs — particularly RDNs who serve in the military or are spouses of military personnel — would help alleviate barriers to practice after relocating to a new state.
- Improve public safety and promote workforce development by reducing unnecessary licensure burdens.

As a practicing licensed registered dietitian in the state of North Dakota, I see many benefits to my patients. Most of my current patients are students at the University of North Dakota. These students often leave on holiday breaks and summer breaks back to their home states (and countries) which often leads to an extended break in service. This is particularly harmful to clients with disordered eating behaviors who struggle with trust and need frequent follow-up to ensure their well-being. It is very challenging to find providers to transfer care for short times such as winter break or summer vacation which can lead to setbacks in their health. I urge you to consider these patients and the quality of their care when considering your decision.

My recommendation is to pass SB 2223.

Respectfully,

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