

Written Testimony in Support of SB 2223

North Dakota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Dear Chairperson and Committee Members,

The North Dakota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (NDAND) strongly supports Senate Bill 2223 to adopt the Dietitian Licensure Compact. This compact will provide numerous benefits for dietitians, licensing authorities, and the citizens of North Dakota.

Benefits for Dietetic Practitioners:

By adopting SB 2223, North Dakota will enable dietitians to practice across multiple compact member states without needing to obtain and maintain separate licenses in each state. This increased mobility will open up new job opportunities, improve professional flexibility, and make it easier for dietitians to relocate. In particular, the compact will benefit military spouses, who often face challenges in maintaining their careers while moving to new locations. Moreover, the compact will streamline the process for dietitians, reducing the time and resources spent on managing multiple licenses.

Benefits for Licensing Authorities:

This compact will reduce administrative burdens for the North Dakota Board of Dietetic Practice by creating a unified “compact information system.” This system will facilitate the sharing of licensure and disciplinary information between states, ensuring efficient and effective regulation of dietitians. Additionally, the compact will enhance cooperation among state licensing boards during investigations and disciplinary actions, while preserving state jurisdiction over dietitians practicing in North Dakota.

Benefits for the State of North Dakota:

SB 2223 will help strengthen North Dakota’s workforce and improve public health by providing greater access to qualified dietitians. The compact will also promote transparency and public safety by allowing for rapid verification of licensure status through the shared data system. Importantly, this compact will not alter North Dakota’s current licensure requirements for initial licensure or license renewal. Instead, it provides an alternative, voluntary pathway for dietitians to practice across state lines, ensuring that North Dakota maintains full control over its licensure processes.

In conclusion, SB 2223 represents a valuable opportunity for North Dakota to enhance healthcare delivery, promote professional mobility, and support a well-regulated workforce. The North Dakota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics urges the committee to pass this bill, benefiting both dietitians and the residents of North Dakota.

Thank you for considering this testimony. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

North Dakota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics