



2025 SB 2223

Senate Workforce Development Committee

Senator Wobbema, Chairman

February 7, 2025

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA). I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2223. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Hospitals support the passage of the dietician licensure compact because it would streamline the interstate practice of dietitians with the goal of improving access to medical nutrition therapy and other essential dietetic services. While we have workforce challenges across all hospitals, it is especially difficult in rural and underserved areas. This bill would assist in expanding access to nutrition care in all parts of the state.

Other health care professions have similar interstate licensing compacts that have worked well in our state to make licensing across state lines faster and more efficient, such as the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC), the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact (APRN Compact), the Physical Therapy Compact (PT Compact), and the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT).

Additional benefits of adopting this particular compact are that it will:

- Increase public access to medical nutrition therapy and other essential dietetic services by providing for the mutual recognition of other member state licenses;
- Enhance states' ability to protect the public's health and safety;
- Encourage cooperation of member states in regulating multistate dietician practice;
- Support spouses of relocating military members by reducing the time and burden of obtaining multiple licenses;
- Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative, and disciplinary information

between member states;

- Allow a remote state to hold a provider of services with a compact privilege in that state accountable to that state's practice standards; and
- Facilitate the use of telehealth technology to increase access to dietetic services.

In summary, we believe this bill will streamline interstate licensure, improve access to important dietetic services, and improve the health and well-being of North Dakotans. We support passage of this bill and hope that you will give it a **Do Pass** recommendation.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President
North Dakota Hospital Association