



Written Testimony in Support of SB 2223

North Dakota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Dear Chairman Warrey and Members of the Committee,

The North Dakota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (NDAND) strongly supports Senate Bill 2223 to adopt the Dietitian Licensure Compact. In partnership with the national Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the North Dakota Board of Dietetic Practice (NDBODP), and the United States Army National Guard (USArmy NG), NDAND has played an active role in developing this important legislation. We believe that participation in a multi-state compact will bring significant benefits to dietitians, licensing authorities, and the citizens of North Dakota, while preserving the integrity of North Dakota's licensure law.

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 strengthen North Dakota's workforce and improve public health by expanding access to qualified dietitians, especially in rural areas and communities with limited dietetics professionals. The compact will also enhance transparency and public safety through a shared data system for quick licensure verification. Importantly, it does not change North Dakota's existing licensure requirements but provides a voluntary, alternative pathway for dietitians to practice across state lines, ensuring the state retains 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.

Sincerely,
North Dakota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics