



PATRICK TESTIN

STATE SENATOR

DATE: April 23rd, 2025
RE: **Testimony on Senate Bill 71**
TO: The Senate Committee on Health
FROM: Senator Patrick Testin

Thank you Chairwoman and members of the committee for accepting my testimony on Senate Bill 71.

Interstate compacts are agreements that allow a group of states to put in place parameters for credentialed professionals to practice in states that have ratified this agreement via legislation.

During the 2023-2024 legislative session, several bills were enacted that ratified Wisconsin's membership in various interstate compacts, including the Physician Assistant Compact, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact, and the Counseling Compact. SB 71 would allow Wisconsin to join the Dietitian Licensure Compact.

In order for the compact to be created, seven states need to enact legislation joining the compact. At this time, three states have enacted legislation to join the dietitian compact—Alabama, Nebraska and Tennessee. If Wisconsin were one of the first seven states to enact this legislation, it would afford us an opportunity to influence the establishment of the compact commission, which will administer and implement the compact.

When the compact is established, eligible Wisconsin dietitians will be afforded the opportunity to apply for a compact privilege to practice their profession in one or multiple states. While dietitians will need to pay a fee to each state in which they are applying in practice, these fees will be set by the compact commission and are generally significantly lower than if they were not applying via the compact process. In addition, compact privileges to practice in other states are issued more quickly than through a non-compact process. Out-of-state dietitians would be able to take advantage of the compact process to serve patients in Wisconsin as well. Such dietitians would be subject to our state's laws and regulations just as Wisconsin-based dietitians are.

Why is it beneficial to implement a dietitian compact? It will:

- Make it much less burdensome for Wisconsin dietitians to apply to practice in multiple states.
- Allows our dietitians to serve patients who relocate or reside part-time in other states.
- Allow military spouses to more easily continue their practices when they move every two to three years
- Reduces our state's administrative burden.

I ask for your support and am happy to take any questions.



ROBERT BROOKS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Hearing Testimony
Senate Committee on Health
Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Chairperson Cabral-Guevara and members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for affording me with the opportunity to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 71, the dietitian licensure compact.

At the outset it is imperative to denote that this model legislation was crafted by the Council on State Government in conjunction with the national Academy of Nutrition Dietetics. The United States Department of Defense was also involved with this project, in an effort to make occupational credentials of military spouses more portable, as military families generally relocate every two-to-three years.

At this writing, the compact has officially been created, as seven states: Ohio, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Utah, have all passed legislation licensure compact legislation.

Because of the compact being established, Wisconsin dietitians will be afforded the opportunity to apply for compact privileges to practice their profession in one or multiple states. While dietitians will be required to pay a fee to each state in which they are applying, these fees are established by the commission and are generally less expensive than those imposed by state agencies. Additionally, compact privileges to practice in other states are issued more robustly than through a non-compact process. Out-of-state dietitians would be able to take advantage of the compact process to serve patients in Wisconsin as well. Such dietitians would be subject to Wisconsin's laws and regulations just as Wisconsin-based dietitians are.

Senate Bill 71, if enacted and signed into law would:

- Make it less burdensome for Wisconsin-based dietitians to apply to practice in multiple states.
- Allow Wisconsin-based dietitians to serve patients who relocate or reside part-time in other states.
- Allow military spouses to more easily continue their practices when they move every two-to-three years.
- Reduce Wisconsin's administrative burden.

I look forward to answering any questions you have with respect to Senate Bill 71.



TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Health
FROM: Nathan Butzlaff, Contract Lobbyist, Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
DATE: April 23, 2025
RE: Senate Bill 71 (Relating to: ratification of the Dietitian Licensure Compact)

Good afternoon, Chair Cabral-Guevara, Vice Chair Testin, Ranking Member Smith, and committee members. My name is Nathan Butzlaff, and I am a contract lobbyist for the Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (WAND).

On behalf of WAND and the patients our members serve, I respectfully request your support of Senate Bill 71, which would enter Wisconsin into the interstate Dietitian Licensure Compact.

This legislation would allow eligible dietitians to care for patients in states outside of Wisconsin that also join the compact. In order to do so, a Wisconsin dietitian would need to apply for a compact privilege in such a state and meet other requirements put in place by the state, such as undergoing a background check and paying a fee. As is generally the case under other interstate occupational credential compacts, the compact privilege fee to practice in another state would be lower than if the dietitian went through the normal credentialing process in that state. In addition, applications for a compact privilege are generally processed more expeditiously than applications submitted under the normal credentialing process.

The interstate dietitian compact will simplify the credentialing application process for Wisconsin dietitians that practice in other states. Thus, it also supports inter-state practice and decreases the risk of disrupted care when patients move out of state or reside in other states on a part-time basis. In addition, it would make Wisconsin a more military family-friendly state by making it much easier for military personnel or their spouses to continue to treat patients independent of their locale.

As you may know, Wisconsin dietitians are certified and maintain title protection. **This compact would not change how dietitians are regulated in the state.** This dietitian licensure compact bill applies to Wisconsin's certified dietitians. In addition, **this bill does not expand the scope of practice for dietitians who are certified in our state.**

In order for the interstate dietitian compact to be formed, at least seven states need to enact this model legislation. As of today, nine states have enacted this legislation – Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Ohio, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi. In addition, I have recently been informed that there are three states in which the bill is awaiting the Governor's signature – Iowa, Arkansas, and Montana. Now that at least seven states have enacted this model legislation, a meeting will occur later this year – sometime in the Fall – during which the compact commission will be formally created. The compact commission is the entity that administers the compact. It is also important to note that it will take approximately 18 to 24 months to fully implement the compact – and before dietitians in compact member states will be able to apply for a compact privilege to practice in other compact member states.

I'd also like to discuss the status of the dietitian compact in neighboring states. As I just mentioned, the dietitian compact bill is on the Governor's desk in Iowa. In Illinois, the Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is working with legislators on updating their state licensing statute, as it does not currently align with the dietitian compact model bill. In Minnesota, we are hearing that legislators will wait until next year before introducing a dietitian licensure compact bill. Likewise, in Michigan, it is expected that this compact bill will likely be introduced in 2026.

Finally, I would like to address the issue of state authority. Under this legislation, the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) would maintain jurisdiction over credentialed dietitians who practice in Wisconsin – whether Wisconsin is their home, or the dietitian resides in another state but has received a compact privilege to practice in our state. DSPS would still maintain the authority to take disciplinary actions against credentialed dietitians in Wisconsin – whether this is their state of residence or not – if necessary.

Thanks again for scheduling Senate Bill 71 for a hearing today. I welcome any questions that you may have.

TO: Members of the Senate Health Committee

FROM: Kelley Wilson, MS, RDN, CD
Manager of Clinical Nutrition Operations – UW Hospital and Clinics

DATE: April 23, 2025

RE: Senate Bill 71 – a bill ratifying the Dietitian Licensure Compact

Good morning – Chair Cabral-Guevara, Vice Chair Testin, Ranking Member Smith – and committee members.

Thank you, Senator Cabral-Guevara, for holding this hearing to address the Dietitian Licensure Compact Bill. My name is Kelley Wilson. I have been a Registered Dietitian for 13 years. I've worked in both the inpatient and outpatient setting, and I've supported two #1 hospitals, one in Oklahoma and now here in Madison, Wisconsin. The bulk of my career was spent as a leading gastrointestinal nutrition expert. Now, I am a Clinical Nutrition Manager. A Clinical Nutrition Manager oversees operations of Clinical Nutrition care, namely the dietitians that provide that care and any systems and programs related. I am responsible for adult facing care in the clinics, overseeing 29 dietitians and 4 supporting leaders. I also manage our teaching kitchen where patients learn the art of Culinary Medicine, and I orchestrate a CDC-recognized Lifestyle Change Program.

I am currently credentialed in Wisconsin but have been credentialed in Oklahoma and Illinois. Today, I'm sharing perspective on the licensure compact through the lens of a Clinical Nutrition Manager. UW Health is a large organization. Between Wisconsin and Illinois, we have 6 hospitals, 4 medical centers, and nearly 100 outpatient clinics. There are dietitian teams in both states. All WI-based UW Health outpatient dietitians are required to maintain licensure in both Wisconsin and Illinois due to our reach. In the past 12 months, my team alone, which does not service pediatrics, completed over 31,000 outpatient visits. Of those visits, 9% were patients with primary residence outside of the state of Wisconsin. The same percentage of our telehealth visits represent non-Wisconsinites. This shows how important interstate licensing truly is. While acutely ill patients usually require in-person visits, many patients are suitable for virtual care. This allows patients to maintain care in our system, not to mention it generates revenue in our state.

Though we are successful supporting some neighbors, the current licensure framework limits care more broadly. For example, some of that 9% I mentioned were telehealth visits initiated from states our dietitians are not licensed in, such as Florida or Minnesota. It's not uncommon for patients to be in other states – for example, many locals vacation south in the winter months. Other patients may have recently moved or have translocated temporarily to take care of a family member. Anyway, when these occur, we are unable to provide the best practice of individualized medical nutrition therapy. This is not good patient care. Dietitians are often specialized in one area like kidney stones, epilepsy, or cystic fibrosis and some patients have driven hundreds or even thousands of miles to receive specialized care in person because of licensure restrictions. But this is not the ability of the average patient, nor should it be the expectation. The licensure compact would largely eradicate this problem.

Another problem with the current system is that obtaining a license in another state is slow and cumbersome. Of 14 dietitians I've hired in the past 3 years, 86% had unexpected delays in receiving their Illinois license. Despite an advertised 12-week processing time, most waited 5-7 months after their check was cashed. These delays cause strains on our workforce and patients. The licensure compact would allow for an easier and faster process and remove strains from systems on both ends.

Lastly, as a manager I am focused on designing the future workforce. We are facing a shortage of dietitians in the coming years, while the U.S is getting sicker. The licensure compact would better utilize resources by allowing dietitians to provide care farther distances to eligible patients.

In summary, a dietitian licensure compact provides multiple workforce and practice benefits. But the most important benefits are those that reach the patient, because that's why we work in healthcare – to provide the best possible care to our patients. The compact would reduce barriers to care and improve continuity of care. There is growing momentum with other states passing this legislation. Wisconsin would benefit from joining.

I appreciate the committee chair granting this hearing today and am available for any questions the committee may have for me.

TO: Members of the Senate Health Committee

FROM: Mackenzie Burke, MS, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, Lifestyle Coach
Clinical Nutrition Supervisor at UW Health

DATE: April 23, 2025

RE: Senate Bill 71 – a bill ratifying the Dietitian Licensure Compact

Good morning – Chair Cabral-Guevara, Vice Chair Testin, Ranking Member Smith – and committee members.

Thank you for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 71 today. My name is Mackenzie Burke. I have been a dietitian since 2021 and worked for UW Health since then. I started as a Dietitian in cardiology care and have since moved into a Supervisor role. I have a masters in clinical nutrition from UW Madison, and have practiced in a variety of clinics including preventative cardiology, cardiac rehab, osteoarthritis clinic, transplant clinic, and ALS clinic. I am also a registered Lifestyle Coach for the Diabetes Prevention Program or Lifestyle Change Program. I currently oversee 13 dietitians in my role across a variety of clinics including Surgical Weight Management, Medical Weight Management, General Nutrition, Osteoarthritis clinic, and cardiology.

I am credentialed in Wisconsin and Illinois, which is a requirement for dietitians at UW Health. Illinois is also not a member of the dietitian licensure compact at this time. As a supervisor, new staff members are often waiting for licensure from the state of Illinois anywhere from 3 months to a year from when they apply for licensure. While waiting for approval, staff members cannot accept any video visits from a patient who lives in Illinois. It is very common for our northern Illinois patients to come in person for their initial visit to establish care, and want to follow up via video following. We recently changed our policy at UW Health to allow for up to year to get your license from Illinois, as before we had a 90 day cut off, and we kept having to extend the deadline for new employees. These patients choose to come to Madison for their specialty care as opposed to Chicago, bringing additional revenue to the state of Wisconsin. Being able to serve these patients with a video visit is a huge benefit to them and to the state of Wisconsin as we are able to get and keep their care here. This is why we require licensure in Illinois for our dietitians.

In the variety of clinics I have worked in, I have seen patients who come from all over the Midwest to seek care at UW Health. UW Health is one of the top Transplant centers in the country. We often get patients traveling from not only across Wisconsin but Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, sometimes even Indiana to be assessed by our transplant center to be put on our waitlist for an organ. Iowa and Indiana currently have legislation introduced to join the compact. These patients hope to receive a new kidney, liver, heart, or lungs. If you have never met anyone in organ failure, they are very sick. Often times with much higher nutritional needs than the average individual. They are at a higher risk for frailty, malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and may have limited access to a dietitian where they live. Especially in more rural states like Iowa. For many of these patients, we would like to follow up with them to get them as strong as possible before they pursue a transplant, as this better their outcomes. However, we can only provide video visits to check in on these patients for Wisconsin and Illinois residents. Otherwise, patients would have to return in person to follow up with a dietitian, driving often 3+ hours to clinic every few months to check in and maintain their status on the waitlist. Dietitians in Wisconsin would greatly be able to better serve our patients if Wisconsin joined the compact. UW Health also is one of the only health

centers in the country with access to an adult neurology/epilepsy clinic with a dietitian who specializes in the ketogenic diet, or keto. 22 states in the country have no medical center with this type of care, if the compact was passed, we would be able to cast a much wider net on patients we are able to serve in this population.

At UW Health, we are passionate about attracting and keeping a strong workforce. I am from Massachusetts originally and chose to stay in Wisconsin as I love Madison and working at UW Health. In fact, out of our current outpatient workforce, 35% are students from our integrated graduate program through UW, and several of those students are originally from a different state. UW Health has attracted dietitians from other states as we are a top medical center. We have a few dietitians who have moved back to Wisconsin to be closer to family or have moved for their spouse's work. Before they can join our workforce, they must be licensed in Wisconsin first. This delays start times and can impact patient care. If we were to join the compact, this would allow us to attract more excellent experienced candidates from other states.

Thanks again for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 71. I respectfully ask all of you for your support of this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

March 6, 2025

Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Wisconsin State Senate
Room 323 South, State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Chair Cabral-Guevara and Members of the Senate Committee on Health:

Wisconsin stands at the forefront of an opportunity to provide national leadership by enacting Senate Bill 71, Ratification of the Dietitian Licensure Compact. This Compact, developed through a collaboration between the Department of Defense, The Council of State Governments, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics promises a multitude of advantages. Notably, it grants licensees the freedom to practice across multiple states, facilitates mobility for various demographics such as military personnel and their families, bolsters public safety, and streamlines workforce development by alleviating unnecessary licensure hurdles.

The Dietitian Licensure Compact has been enacted in Alabama, Nebraska, Ohio, and Tennessee. It is presently awaiting Governor signature in Mississippi and South Dakota and has been filed in eighteen other states this session. The benefits of embracing the Dietitian Licensure Compact are many for Wisconsin. It promises diminished administrative burdens, heightened operational efficiency, and access to a shared compact database crucial for expediting licensure procedures and disciplinary measures. Moreover, it fosters enhanced collaboration among state licensure boards, particularly in the realms of investigation and conflict resolution, all while ensuring Wisconsin's continued jurisdiction over practicing licensees within its borders.

Crucially, enacting the Dietitian Licensure Compact would foster positive economic growth within Wisconsin. It would catalyze healthcare workforce expansion, particularly in rural areas, open new market avenues for dietitians, and attract dietetic students and professionals to the state. This, in turn, would translate to reduced healthcare expenditures for Wisconsin citizens through heightened patient access and continuity of care under the guidance of qualified dietitians.

On behalf of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the 116,917 dietetic professionals we represent, including nearly 2,542 residing in Wisconsin, we implore your support for the passage of the Dietitian Licensure Compact. By seizing this opportunity, Wisconsin can pave the way for a brighter, more interconnected future in the realm of dietetics, benefiting both its citizens and the broader healthcare landscape.

Sincerely,



Charla M. Burill, JD, RD
Senior Director State Legislative & Government Affairs
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

April 23, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health Committee:

As a practicing Pediatric Clinical Nutritionist, I am contacting you to respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 71, authored by Senator Patrick Testin and Representative Rob Brooks, that would enter Wisconsin into the interstate dietitian licensure compact.

The purpose of this compact is to facilitate interstate practice of dietetics with the goals of improving workforce mobility and improving access to care.

To allow a Wisconsin dietitian to take advantage of this interstate compact, the dietitian would need to apply for a "compact privilege" in another state and pay a fee. Compact privilege fees are generally lower than if the dietitian went through the normal credentialing process in that state. Also, a compact privilege application is generally processed faster than applications submitted through the normal occupational credentialing process.

This compact will simplify the credentialing application process for Wisconsin dietitians that practice in other states. Thus, it also supports interstate practice and decreases the risk of disrupted care when patients move out of state or reside in other states on a part-time basis. Joining the compact would also promote workforce development by reducing unnecessary licensure burdens. In addition, it would make Wisconsin a more military family-friendly state by making it much easier for military personnel or their spouses to continue to treat patients independent of their locale.

As you may know, Wisconsin dietitians are certified and maintain title protection. This compact would not change how dietitians are regulated in our state. This dietitian licensure compact bill applies to Wisconsin's certified dietitians. In addition, this bill does not expand the scope of practice of dietitians who are certified in our state.

Wisconsin is a member of numerous other interstate occupational compacts. I strongly support Wisconsin joining the interstate dietitian licensure compact, as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Camila Martin, MS, RDN, CD, LDN
1706 Regent Street, Madison, WI 53726

April 23, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health Committee:

As a practicing Clinical Nutritionist, I am contacting you to respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 71, authored by Senator Patrick Testin and Representative Rob Brooks, that would enter Wisconsin into the interstate dietitian licensure compact.

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As a registered dietitian at the UW Health Adult Neurology Ketogenic Diet Therapy clinic, I support patients with epilepsy, a condition affecting 1 in 26 individuals, where one-third do not respond to medications. Our clinic is one of the top adult ketogenic diet therapy clinics in the world, attracting out-of-state patients from Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, and beyond due to the scarcity of such expertise. With 22 states lacking adult ketogenic therapy clinics, many patients travel to Wisconsin for care. By joining the licensure compact, we can increase access to our services, reduce travel burdens, provide more timely follow-up visits via telemedicine between in-person visits, optimize care, and improve health outcomes and quality of life for a vulnerable population.

Wisconsin is a member of numerous other interstate occupational compacts. I strongly support Wisconsin joining the interstate dietitian licensure compact, as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Faltersack MS, RDN, CD
Clinical Nutritionist at UW Health
5158 Buttonbush Circle Fitchburg, WI 53711

April 23, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health Committee:

As a practicing Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, I am contacting you to respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 71, authored by Senator Patrick Testin and Representative Rob Brooks, that would enter Wisconsin into the interstate dietitian licensure compact.

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Wisconsin is a member of numerous other interstate occupational compacts. I strongly support Wisconsin joining the interstate dietitian licensure compact, as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Megan Rohde, RDN, CD, LDN
B.S Dietetics
5905 Peninsula Way
McFarland, WI 53558

April 23, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health Committee:

As a practicing registered dietitian nutritionist, I am contacting you to respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 71, authored by Senator Patrick Testin and Representative Rob Brooks, that would enter Wisconsin into the interstate dietitian licensure compact.

The purpose of this compact is to facilitate interstate practice of dietetics with the goals of improving workforce mobility and improving access to care.

To allow a Wisconsin dietitian to take advantage of this interstate compact, the dietitian would need to apply for a "compact privilege" in another state and pay a fee. Compact privilege fees are generally lower than if the dietitian went through the normal credentialing process in that state. Also, a compact privilege application is generally processed faster than applications submitted through the normal occupational credentialing process.

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Wisconsin is a member of numerous other interstate occupational compacts. I strongly support Wisconsin joining the interstate dietitian licensure compact, as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annaliese Haas, MS, RDN
6130 Century Ave
Apt 102
Middleton, WI 53564

April 23, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health Committee:

As a practicing clinical dietitian with UW Health's Transplant Clinic, I am contacting you to respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 71, authored by Senator Patrick Testin and Representative Rob Brooks, that would enter Wisconsin into the interstate dietitian licensure compact.

The purpose of this compact is to facilitate interstate practice of dietetics with the goals of improving workforce mobility and improving access to care.

To allow a Wisconsin dietitian to take advantage of this interstate compact, the dietitian would need to apply for a "compact privilege" in another state and pay a fee. Compact privilege fees are generally lower than if the dietitian went through the normal credentialing process in that state. Also, a compact privilege application is generally processed faster than applications submitted through the normal occupational credentialing process.

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Wisconsin is a member of numerous other interstate occupational compacts. I strongly support Wisconsin joining the interstate dietitian licensure compact, as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gabby Busalacchi, MS, RDN, CD
321 Wisconsin Ave
Madison, WI 53703

April 23, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health Committee:

As a practicing Registered Dietitian, I am contacting you to respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 71, authored by Senator Patrick Testin and Representative Rob Brooks, that would enter Wisconsin into the interstate dietitian licensure compact.

The purpose of this compact is to facilitate interstate practice of dietetics with the goals of improving workforce mobility and improving access to care.

To allow a Wisconsin dietitian to take advantage of this interstate compact, the dietitian would need to apply for a "compact privilege" in another state and pay a fee. Compact privilege fees are generally lower than if the dietitian went through the normal credentialing process in that state. Also, a compact privilege application is generally processed faster than applications submitted through the normal occupational credentialing process.

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Wisconsin is a member of numerous other interstate occupational compacts. I strongly support Wisconsin joining the interstate dietitian licensure compact, as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Corinne Altamira, MS, RD
6648 Ramshorn Dr. Deforest, WI 52532

April 23, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health Committee:

As a practicing registered dietitian in the state of WI, serving those in IL as well, I am contacting you to respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 71, authored by Senator Patrick Testin and Representative Rob Brooks, that would enter Wisconsin into the interstate dietitian licensure compact.

The purpose of this compact is to facilitate interstate practice of dietetics with the goals of improving workforce mobility and improving access to care. In my area of specialty, this could expand access to transplant care including nutrition counseling pre- and post-transplant surgery.

To allow a Wisconsin dietitian to take advantage of this interstate compact, the dietitian would need to apply for a "compact privilege" in another state and pay a fee. Compact privilege fees are generally lower than if the dietitian went through the normal credentialing process in that state. Also, a compact privilege application is generally processed faster than applications submitted through the normal occupational credentialing process.

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Wisconsin is a member of numerous other interstate occupational compacts. I strongly support Wisconsin joining the interstate dietitian licensure compact, as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katrina Kennedy, MS, RDN, CD, LD
UW Health Transplant Center
941 Dane St, Madison WI, 53713

April 22, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health Committee:

As a practicing Senior Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, I am contacting you to respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 71, authored by Senator Patrick Testin and Representative Rob Brooks, that would enter Wisconsin into the interstate dietitian licensure compact.

The purpose of this compact is to facilitate interstate practice of dietetics with the goals of improving workforce mobility and improving access to care.

To allow a Wisconsin dietitian to take advantage of this interstate compact, the dietitian would need to apply for a "compact privilege" in another state and pay a fee. Compact privilege fees are generally lower than if the dietitian went through the normal credentialing process in that state. Also, a compact privilege application is generally processed faster than applications submitted through the normal occupational credentialing process. I personally work with patients who live in Illinois and in the past have needed to apply and renew my Illinois license. This process is onerous and time consuming. Further, I have patients that live in the Upper Peninsula, and they must travel into Wisconsin to receive virtual care. This is not always feasible for our lower income-working parents and places the children I provide care for at greater nutrition risk.

This compact will simplify the credentialing application process for Wisconsin dietitians that practice in other states. Thus, it also supports interstate practice and decreases the risk of disrupted care when patients move out of state or reside in other states on a part-time basis. Joining the compact would also promote workforce development by reducing unnecessary licensure burdens. In addition, it would make Wisconsin a more military family-friendly state by making it much easier for military personnel or their spouses to continue to treat patients independent of their locale.

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Wisconsin is a member of numerous other interstate occupational compacts. I strongly support Wisconsin joining the interstate dietitian licensure compact, as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Grace Franklin, MS RDN LDN CD CNSC
521 Orchard Drive
Madison, WI 53711

April 23, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health Committee:

As a practicing weight management dietitian, I am contacting you to respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 71, authored by Senator Patrick Testin and Representative Rob Brooks, that would enter Wisconsin into the interstate dietitian licensure compact.

The purpose of this compact is to facilitate interstate practice of dietetics with the goals of improving workforce mobility and improving access to care.

To allow a Wisconsin dietitian to take advantage of this interstate compact, the dietitian would need to apply for a "compact privilege" in another state and pay a fee. Compact privilege fees are generally lower than if the dietitian went through the normal credentialing process in that state. Also, a compact privilege application is generally processed faster than applications submitted through the normal occupational credentialing process.

This compact will simplify the credentialing application process for Wisconsin dietitians that practice in other states. Thus, it also supports interstate practice and decreases the risk of disrupted care when patients move out of state or reside in other states on a part-time basis. Joining the compact would also promote workforce development by reducing unnecessary licensure burdens. In addition, it would make Wisconsin a more military family-friendly state by making it much easier for military personnel or their spouses to continue to treat patients independent of their locale.

As you may know, Wisconsin dietitians are certified and maintain title protection. This compact would not change how dietitians are regulated in our state. This dietitian licensure compact bill applies to Wisconsin's certified dietitians. In addition, this bill does not expand the scope of practice of dietitians who are certified in our state.

Wisconsin is a member of numerous other interstate occupational compacts. I strongly support Wisconsin joining the interstate dietitian licensure compact, as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Harnisch, MS, RDN, CD
7181 Belle Fontaine Blvd., Apt 312#
Middleton, WI 53562

April 23, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health Committee:

As a practicing Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, I am contacting you to respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 71, authored by Senator Patrick Testin and Representative Rob Brooks, that would enter Wisconsin into the interstate dietitian licensure compact.

The purpose of this compact is to facilitate interstate practice of dietetics with the goals of improving workforce mobility and improving access to care.

To allow a Wisconsin dietitian to take advantage of this interstate compact, the dietitian would need to apply for a "compact privilege" in another state and pay a fee. Compact privilege fees are generally lower than if the dietitian went through the normal credentialing process in that state. Also, a compact privilege application is generally processed faster than applications submitted through the normal occupational credentialing process.

This compact will simplify the credentialing application process for Wisconsin dietitians that practice in other states. Thus, it also supports interstate practice and decreases the risk of disrupted care when patients move out of state or reside in other states on a part-time basis. Joining the compact would also promote workforce development by reducing unnecessary licensure burdens. In addition, it would make Wisconsin a more military family-friendly state by making it much easier for military personnel or their spouses to continue to treat patients independent of their locale.

As you may know, Wisconsin dietitians are certified and maintain title protection. This compact would not change how dietitians are regulated in our state. This dietitian licensure compact bill applies to Wisconsin's certified dietitians. In addition, this bill does not expand the scope of practice of dietitians who are certified in our state.

Wisconsin is a member of numerous other interstate occupational compacts. I strongly support Wisconsin joining the interstate dietitian licensure compact, as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Shaver (M.S., RDN, LDN)
5380 Congress Avenue Apt 101,
Madison, WI 53718

April 23, 2025

Dear Senate Health Committee:

As a former President of Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and a registered dietitian since 1980, I am contacting you to respectfully request that you **support Senate Bill 71**, authored by Senator Patrick Testin and Representative Rob Brooks.

Passage of SB 71 would enter Wisconsin into the **interstate dietitian licensure compact**, which will facilitate interstate practice of dietetics, improve workforce mobility and improve access to care. Compact privilege fees are generally lower and application processing is much faster than if the dietitian went through a state's normal credentialing process.

Our national professional organization, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, was selected through a competitive grant process for Department of Defense funding to work with the Council of State Governments' National Center for Interstate Compacts on this interstate licensure compact for the dietetics profession. Passage of SB 71 would promote career stability for military-connected dietitians and their spouses and advance workforce development across the nation.

This historic legislation has just recently passed in Kansas, making it the ninth state to do so. The language of long-standing licensure statutes in Minnesota and Illinois doesn't currently align with that of interstate dietitian licensure compact legislation, so these states will need to amend their licensure statutes before they can pass legislation to join the interstate compact. Michigan passed a dietitian licensure bill in 2024 and is currently in the process of establishing their licensure board and promulgating rules.

The formation of a national Compact Commission is underway, which will govern the implementation and operation of the Dietitian Licensure Compact. The commission's inaugural meeting is expected to take place in early fall 2025, bringing together representatives from each member state to shape how the compact will function and be administered.

This compact will not change how dietitians are regulated in our state, nor does it expand the scope of practice of dietitians who are certified in our state. This dietitian licensure compact bill applies to Wisconsin's certified dietitians because the requirements for dietitian certification in our state fully align with interstate dietitian licensure compact requirements.

Wisconsin is a member of numerous other interstate occupational compacts. I hope you will advance the viability of our dietetics profession and improve access to medical nutrition therapy in Wisconsin by supporting the passage of SB 71, the interstate dietitian licensure compact bill.

Sincerely,

Christina C Lemon, MS, RDN, CD
2519 Middleton Beach Road
Middleton, WI 53562

April 23, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health Committee:

As a practicing Dietitian, I am contacting you to respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 71, authored by Senator Patrick Testin and Representative Rob Brooks, that would enter Wisconsin into the interstate dietitian licensure compact.

The purpose of this compact is to facilitate interstate practice of dietetics with the goals of improving workforce mobility and improving access to care.

To allow a Wisconsin dietitian to take advantage of this interstate compact, the dietitian would need to apply for a "compact privilege" in another state and pay a fee. Compact privilege fees are generally lower than if the dietitian went through the normal credentialing process in that state. Also, a compact privilege application is generally processed faster than applications submitted through the normal occupational credentialing process.

This compact will simplify the credentialing application process for Wisconsin dietitians that practice in other states. Thus, it also supports interstate practice and decreases the risk of disrupted care when patients move out of state or reside in other states on a part-time basis. Joining the compact would also promote workforce development by reducing unnecessary licensure burdens. In addition, it would make Wisconsin a more military family-friendly state by making it much easier for military personnel or their spouses to continue to treat patients independent of their locale.

As you may know, Wisconsin dietitians are certified and maintain title protection. This compact would not change how dietitians are regulated in our state. This dietitian licensure compact bill applies to Wisconsin's certified dietitians. In addition, this bill does not expand the scope of practice of dietitians who are certified in our state.

Wisconsin is a member of numerous other interstate occupational compacts. I strongly support Wisconsin joining the interstate dietitian licensure compact, as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taylor Erholtz, RDN, LDN
409 Palomino Ln Apt 1N, Madison, WI 53705

April 23, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Health Committee:

As a practicing dietitian, I am contacting you to respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 71, authored by Senator Patrick Testin and Representative Rob Brooks, that would enter Wisconsin into the interstate dietitian licensure compact.

The purpose of this compact is to facilitate interstate practice of dietetics with the goals of improving workforce mobility and improving access to care.

To allow a Wisconsin dietitian to take advantage of this interstate compact, the dietitian would need to apply for a “compact privilege” in another state and pay a fee. Compact privilege fees are generally lower than if the dietitian went through the normal credentialing process in that state. Also, a compact privilege application is generally processed faster than applications submitted through the normal occupational credentialing process.

This compact will simplify the credentialing application process for Wisconsin dietitians that practice in other states. Thus, it also supports interstate practice and decreases the risk of disrupted care when patients move out of state or reside in other states on a part-time basis. I have multiple patients who spend their winters in states that require a separate license (ex: Florida). I also have patients who reside in neighboring states (ex: Iowa) that must drive over the border and perform a visit in their cars, which is not an ideal learning environment.

As a dietitian specializing in gastrointestinal (GI) nutrition, I often work with patients who require ongoing, individualized care to manage complex conditions like gastroparesis, IBD, IBS, and patients needing nutrition support (enteral and parenteral nutrition). These patients frequently travel long distances or move across state lines for specialty care, and gaps in licensure make it challenging to maintain continuity. The Dietetic Licensure Compact would allow me to provide consistent, evidence-based GI nutrition support regardless of a patient's location—ensuring they get the care they need when they need it, without interruption.

The Dietetic Licensure Compact will also enhance collaboration among dietitians across state lines, fostering a stronger professional network and greater sharing of expertise—especially in specialized nutrition areas. It will reduce administrative burdens and streamline telehealth services, allowing dietitians to focus more on patient care and less on navigating licensure logistics. By increasing access to qualified nutrition professionals, the compact will ultimately improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, particularly for patients managing chronic GI conditions who rely on consistent, expert guidance.

Wisconsin is a member of numerous other interstate occupational compacts. I strongly support Wisconsin joining the interstate dietitian licensure compact, as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Melissa Phillips, MS, RDN, CD, LD

N3556 Aebly Rd.

Monroe, WI 53566



MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500**

April 23, 2025

**Wisconsin State Senate
Committee on Health
300 Southeast, Madison, WI 53702**

Senator Cabral-Guevara Chair

**Remarks of
Shane M. Preston
Great Lakes Region Liaison
United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office**

SB 71, an act for ratification of the Dietitian Licensure Compact

Committee Chair Cabral-Guevara, Vice Chair Testin, and Ranking Member Smith. The Department of Defense is grateful for the opportunity to support the policies reflected in SB 71, an act for ratification of the Dietitian Licensure Compact. This legislation addresses licensing issues affecting our service members and their families. The purpose of the compact is to facilitate interstate practice of professional health care services with the goal of reducing regulatory barriers and increasing access to care.

My name is Shane Preston, and I am the Great Lakes Region Liaison for the United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Our office works with state officials, policy makers, and stakeholders regarding issues that affect military service members, veterans, and their families.

Licensure issues for both our transitioning military members and their active duty military spouses have been a priority for the Department for several years. The Council of State Governments (CSG) has partnered with the Department of Defense (DoD), and The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) to support the mobility of licensed dietitians through the development of a new interstate compact. This compact will create reciprocity among participant states and reduce barriers to license portability that many of our military spouses face. To address license portability for military spouses, states have turned to occupational licensure interstate compacts, which streamline relicensing between member states of a compact for all practitioners in an occupation and provide specific support for military spouses of relocating active-duty personnel.

Professional licensure has been an enduring problem for military spouses. Obtaining a license in a new state can be both time consuming and expensive, and military spouses often cannot adequately anticipate how to prepare for licensure in a new state due to the unpredictable nature of military moves. The short duration of military assignments, coupled with lengthy relicensing processes, can discourage military spouses from seeking relicensure, causing them to quit an occupation or causing military families to leave the military.

Military spouses are a cross-section of the American population, though a greater percentage of them are in licensed occupations than their civilian counterparts, and they are significantly more mobile. Frequent moves and cumbersome licensing and certification requirements limit career options for military spouses. Removing these barriers, creating licensing reciprocity, and facilitating placement opportunities can help a military family's financial stability, speed the assimilation of the family into its new location, and create a desirable new employee pool for a state.

The Department of Defense is grateful for the efforts Wisconsin has historically made to support our uniformed service members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to support the policies reflected in SB 71. With the above stated benefits in mind, we look forward to seeing this effort advance to improve the quality of life for all populations we aim to serve. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the policies included in SB 71 and thank the bill sponsor Sen. Testin and the Chair of the Committee on Health for bringing up this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Shane Preston

SHANE PRESTON

Great Lakes Regional Liaison

Defense-State Liaison Office