



**House Committee on Health and Human Services
Testimony in Support to House Bill 2070
Presented by William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs**

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit proponent testimony to House Bill 2070, enacting the dietitian licensure compact to provide interstate practice privileges for dietitians.

The Kansas Chamber formed the Military and Veteran Affairs Council in 2023. The mission of the Military and Veterans Affairs Council is to provide a unified voice to support and grow our state's military institutions and to build stronger relationships between the servicemember and employer communities.

A legislative issue that was brought to our attention through the Military and Veteran Affairs Council was occupational licensing compacts. These compacts are Department of Defense initiatives for states to pass and implement for military spouses and families moving across the country. These interstate compacts streamline the transfer of occupational licenses across state lines. The compacts do not add any additional licensing requirements, change the Kansas licensing requirements for occupations, nor change the continuing education requirements.

The United States is facing a shortage in dietitians nationally. Kansas is also seeing a shortage, especially in the rural areas. The United States has reported 89,300 total registered dietitians. In 2022, Kansas had around 1,000 registered dietitians. Enacting the dietitian compact will give Kansans access to more dietitians to address their nutritional needs to live a healthier life, creating a healthier Kansas.

We would access the committee for an amendment to the definition of “Adverse Action” should read: “Adverse Action”: *means any administrative, civil, equitable or criminal action permitted by a State’s laws which is imposed by a Licensing Authority or other authority against a Licensee, including actions against an individual’s License or Compact Privilege such as 2 **revocation, suspension, probation, monitoring of the Licensee, limitation on the Licensee’s practice, or any other Encumbrance on licensure affecting a Licensee’s authorization to practice, including issuance of a cease and desist action.***” The bold part of the definition for adverse action was left out.

Additionally, to amend in SECTION 4-COMPACT PRIVILEGE (a) (6) starting on line 17: *The compact privilege shall be valid until the expiration date of the home state license. To maintain a compact privilege, renewal of the compact privilege shall be congruent with the renewal of*

the home state license as the compact commission may define by rule. The licensee shall comply with the requirements of subsection (a) to maintain the compact privilege in the remote state. This language is doubled in (b) starting on line 24. It needs to be removed from (a)(6) and needs to stay in (b).

In closing the Kansas Chamber views this compact as a necessary step to increase access to dietitians for Kansans and fast track the licensing process for military spouses moving into our state. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2070, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have at the appropriate time.