



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

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Madam Chair 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 offered the House Health and Human Services Committee two friendly amendments which were technical changes to the bill. As you have heard in order for these compacts to work it is important the language remains uniform with what has passed in other states. Those amendments were made in Committee on the House side.

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.