



# NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact Heads to Governor**

**Madison** – Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed, SB 417/AB 500, the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact. The bill, authored by Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah), has over 97 co-sponsors from both houses of the legislature and strong bi-partisan support. Earlier this week, the bill easily cleared the State Senate and will now head to the Governor’s desk to be signed into law.

Wisconsin’s existing Nurse Licensure Compact expires on January 19, 2018. The enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) is legislation that updates Wisconsin’s current nurse licensure compact statute to maintain Wisconsin’s status as a compact state and does not interfere with Wisconsin’s ability to hold any nurse practicing in Wisconsin accountable for meeting all Wisconsin nurse practice laws.

Representative VanderMeer released the following statement:

“This legislation is not only a big deal for nurses in our state, but it’s also a big deal for those of us and our families that receive care in our local communities. The enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact not only affords the nurses in our state the ability to cross state lines and provide care, aiding in their workforce marketability, it affords healthcare providers in our communities the opportunity to utilize nurse providers from other compact states when necessary. This is especially important for those of us in rural communities because it eliminates potential hurdles we could face when we need to see specialty providers. Additionally, the portability provided by the compact is tremendously helpful during natural disasters and crises. The state of Texas was recently able to utilize compact nurses in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. With this legislation, we will continue to have the ability to utilize compact nurses here in Wisconsin in times of crisis as well. I strongly encourage Governor Walker to swiftly sign this legislation into law.”

The legislation has also received strong support from healthcare providers and stakeholders from every corner of the state, including the Wisconsin Board of Nursing, the Wisconsin Hospital Association, the Wisconsin Organization of Nurse Executives, and the Wisconsin Nurses Association. Locally, the legislation received strong support from Gunderson Health and Mayo Clinic. Multiple representatives from both organizations appeared in Madison to testify during public hearings on the bill.

“The nurse licensure compact has been a success,” shared Jason Fratzke, R.N, Chief Nursing Officer, Mayo Clinic Health System Southwest Wisconsin. “Licensing across state borders gives flexibility to nurses and health care organizations to meet the needs of their patients while keeping high-quality health care in local communities. We appreciate Rep. VanderMeer’s leadership in securing this legislation and we look forward to working with the state as the enhanced compact begins.”

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*The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties.*