



NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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VanderMeer Introduces Medical Licensure Compact Re-Authorization Act

Madison – Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) recently introduced legislation re-authorizing the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact with Representative Debra Kolste (D-Janesville). The compact, a voluntary process for expediting physician licensure across state lines, was originally authored by VanderMeer and signed into law in 2015. Wisconsin was one of the first twelve states to join the compact and with the addition of the state of Michigan in January of 2019, there are now twenty-five states participating in this nationwide compact.

When the compact was signed into law, it included a sunset after five years to trigger legislative review of Wisconsin's participation in the compact. The goal of the sunset was not to terminate Wisconsin's participation, but to review the benefits and re-evaluate the need to continue Wisconsin's participation in this interstate agreement. The Compact Re-Authorization Act addresses and removes the sunset clause in the original legislation.

"The response and utilization of this compact has been incredibly positive. It was no small task to pass this legislation in 2015. While stakeholders in the medical community saw the benefits of reducing the regulatory burden and expediting administrative licensing hurdles, they were also rightfully interested in making sure that we were doing something that would not jeopardize the integrity of our licensure process and high standards of quality care," VanderMeer stated.

"I'm extremely pleased to hear that those concerns have not been realized and rather, a strong coalition is in support of this re-authorization, including the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board, the Wisconsin Hospital Association, the Wisconsin Medical Society and the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative. For patients, especially in rural areas around the state, this helps to create access to professionals that provide care. Locally, Gundersen and Mayo are supportive of this effort and I think that's great," VanderMeer continued.

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