



# NANCY VANDERMEER

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

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **VanderMeer Occupational Therapy Bill Receives Senate Hearing**

**Madison, WI** – Today the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry held a public hearing on legislation that would allow the state of Wisconsin to join the [Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact](#). The [bill](#), authored by Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) and Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan), was brought forward on behalf of Occupational Therapy professionals throughout the state that have a desire to join the nationwide compact.

“I was happy to author this bill on behalf of Occupational Therapy professionals throughout the state and to have been sought out by the Wisconsin Occupational Therapy Association because of the prior success I’ve had in authoring, passing, and enacting other medical licensure compact agreements for Wisconsin health care professionals. These compacts have proven to be excellent opportunities for health care professionals to add value to the services they provide and for health care providers, especially those with a geographical footprint that crosses state lines, to better serve their patients,” VanderMeer said.

Senate Bill 412/[Assembly Bill 410](#) creates an interstate compact for Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTAs). The compact license would allow OTs and OTAs to practice in other states that participate in the compact through a compact privilege. This will remove the need for practitioners to get an individual license in each state where they want to practice and choosing to obtain a compact license would be voluntary.

“This compact is very similar to previous compacts I’ve authored and the Legislature has passed in recent years. Overwhelmingly, these types of compacts have received positive reviews from practitioners, providers, and patients, and I’m looking forward to continuing to move this Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact along in the legislative process,” VanderMeer continued.

In order for the compact to begin operations, ten states must pass legislation to activate the compact. Ohio, Missouri, Colorado, Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, Maine and Georgia have already enacted the compact. Representative VanderMeer authored and passed the [Interstate Medical Licensure Compact](#) in 2015; her first legislative session in office. Additionally, she authored and passed the [Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact](#) during the 2017-2018 Legislative Session. Gundersen Health System [formally registered](#) and testified in support of the legislation during today’s hearing. Mayo Clinic Health System has also registered in support of the proposal.

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