

NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release: October 30, 2019 Contact: Rep. Nancy VanderMeer (608) 266-8366

Medical Licensure Compact Re-Authorization Legislation Clears Assembly Health Committee Unanimously

Madison – Today, the Assembly Committee on Health unanimously passed a bill that re-authorizes Wisconsin's participation in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. <u>Assembly Bill 70</u> is authored by Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah). As a member of the Assembly Health Committee she had the chance to vote in favor of her proposal and she released the following statement:

"I'm very pleased that we were able to move this bill one step closer to enactment today and I'm happy that my colleagues on the committee showed unanimous support for the bill. This compact has proved to be an overwhelming success for practitioners and patients throughout our state, as evidenced by quantifiable utilization of compact licenses for practitioners and a documented track record of success stories experienced by healthcare providers and patients alike. I plan to have this legislation up for a floor vote in the very near future so that it can get to the governor as soon as possible."

The Interstate Medical Licensure 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, which passed the Senate in June of this year, addresses and removes the sunset clause in the original legislation.

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