House Committee of Corporations State of Rhode Island General Assembly 82 Smith Street Providence, RI 02903

## CATHERINE BRENNAN Support for H 5067 - DIETITIAN LICENSURE COMPACT

Hearing: Tuesday Feb 4, 2025

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the Committee,

My name is CATHERINE BRENNAN and I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (dietitian) from Riverside RI. I testify in strong support of H 5067, Dietitian Licensure Compact, which would decrease the administrative burden required for dietitians to be licensed in multiple states.

As a dietitian for Nourish (a large telehealth company) I am licensed in 8 different states that require licensure in order for patients to be seen by a dietitian (RI being one of those states). The licensure requirements state to state are in my experience, almost the same with a few differences. Currently I must keep track of the timing of renewal, fee payment methods and differing continuing education requirements for each state, creating a high administrative burden and taking away important time from patient care. It is timely and costly to get licensure in each individual state, and some of the states I am licensed in have costed upwards of \$500. Many other medical professions have enacted licensure compacts to help with this issue (such as nurses) and I believe RDs should follow suit.

This compact would benefit both patients and dietitians. It benefits patients as it allows them to continue working with their current dietitian via telehealth instead of being forced to change providers when they move or when their dietitian moves. This compact would allow them to continue their work with less interruption and ensure they continue to see a trusted care provider with whom they have an established relationship with. It also benefits dietitians who work from home and see patients remotely through telehealth.

This compact would decrease the burden to become qualified to practice in multiple states and expand access to nutrition care to Rhode Island patients. I respectfully ask for your support of **House Bill 5067**, the **Dietitian Licensure Compact**.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I would also like to thank you on behalf of my current and future patients

## Catherine Brennan

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