

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

Hannah Masse RD LDN CDOE
Support for H 5067 - DIETITIAN LICENSURE COMPACT

Hearing: Tuesday Feb 4, 2025

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the Committee,

My name is Hannah Masse and I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (dietitian) at Women and Infants Hospital in Providence, 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.

This compact would be a monumental benefit to both dietitians and patients. The majority of my career prior to my current position had been spent in the outpatient setting, aiming to cultivate strong professional relationships with my patients to help them navigate a wide range of food-related challenges. It's extremely sad and frustrating to be making progress with a client over their nutrition goals for them to one day tell you they're going to Florida for the winter. Or heading off to college out of state for a few months. You may think, what's a few months? But for a patient battling an eating disorder, this could mean regression and worse outcomes. This compact would make long-term nutrition care and counseling more easily accessible for patients and providers.

It also benefits dietitians who must move frequently as a result of their spouse's profession (for example a spouse in a medical residency or fellowship program). Dietitians are becoming more valued members of the care team, and continuity of care is extremely important. This compact would reduce the difficulty of their move, allow them to continue their work with less interruption and allow them to continue seeing patients from their previous state after they move via telehealth. In the current system, dietitians licensed in multiple states have to 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.

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

Hannah Masse RD LDN CDOE

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