



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

Meg Marie O'Rourke
Support for H 5067 - DIETITIAN LICENSURE COMPACT

Hearing: Tuesday Feb 4, 2025

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the Committee,

My name is Meg Marie O'Rourke with Harmony with Food and I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist from Barrington, 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.

I help high-powered men and women resolve annoying digestive issues (constipation, loose stools, gas, and bloating), weight loss resistance (exercising more and eating less is just not working), and foods sensitivities/ intolerances: (1 in 7 people in the United States have food sensitivities/intolerances that they do not even know about). I have established my own private practice providing nutrition consultations for clients with eating disorders, diabetes, food allergies, and weight management concerns.

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 is especially important for college students, a group at high risk of eating disorders, who necessarily spend large blocks of time in two states and need stable care.

It also benefits dietitians who must move frequently as a result of their spouse's profession (for example a military spouse). 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. With having my radio station syndicated in many

states it is vital to be able to help patients in those states. My radio show, Harmony With Food, focuses on gut health, weight loss resistance, developing a healthy relationship with food, and more. She provides science-based research on food additives and chemicals and calls out Fake Food News. My mission is to change the way people think about food.

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

Meg Marie O'Rourke

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