

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

Kristin Niessink MS, RD, LDN

Support for H 5067 - DIETITIAN LICENSURE COMPACT

Hearing: Tuesday Feb 4, 2025

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kristin Niessink and I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (dietitian) from Portsmouth, 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 provide nutrition counseling for people with a wide range of conditions including obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and a variety of mental illnesses. My work is essential for my clients to achieve healthy lifestyle changes and improved overall well-being. 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 people with mental illness, a group at high risk of eating disorders and obesity, who may spend time in multiple 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.

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

Sincerely,

Kristin Niessink

Kristin Niessink MS, RD, LDN
162 Old Mill Lane
Portsmouth, RI 02871

