

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

Annie Dupre

Support for H 5067 - DIETITIAN LICENSURE COMPACT

Hearing: Tuesday Feb 4, 2025

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the Committee,

My name is Annie and I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (dietitian) from Newport, RI. I currently work under Wendy Leonard at her small business, Rhode Island Nutrition Therapy. 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.

Working for a small business is incredibly fulfilling, however, the current state-by-state licensure process presents a significant and unnecessary burden on our ability to deliver care effectively. Renewing state licensure on a very regular basis, keeping up with ever changing requirements from state to state puts me, and other dietitians, at risk for missing deadlines and losing our ability to practice in that respected state. Currently I hold 2 state licenses, however, I have a network that expands past these two areas. The opportunity to have a compact license would benefit both myself, the small business I work for the state of Rhode Island financially.

The privilege to change health outcomes in my neighbors and friends alike is something I hope to never grow tired of. 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.

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

Annie Dupre, RDN, LDN

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