

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

Christina Hamelin, RDN, LDN
Support for H 5067 - DIETITIAN LICENSURE COMPACT

Hearing: Tuesday Feb 4, 2025

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christina Hamelin and I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (dietitian) from Westerly, RI. For the last 2 years, I have worked for Rhode Island Nutrition Therapy, a small group practice of dietitians that provide high-quality, evidence-based nutrition care to patients who reside in multiple states. 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.

Over the past two years, I have had to deny or discontinue nutrition care for several patients due to their state of residency. It is disheartening to turn away individuals solely based on where they reside. I have built meaningful connections and witnessed significant health improvements in patients who later relocated, making it impossible to continue their care. I strongly support this licensure pact, as it addresses the inequity of care and the potential health risks patients face due to interrupted treatment.

This compact would benefit both patients and dietitians. For patients, it ensures continuity of care by allowing them to continue working with their dietitian via tele-health, rather than being forced to switch providers due to relocation. This is especially crucial for college students, a population at high risk for eating disorders, who split their time between states and require consistent care.

Currently, dietitians licensed in multiple states face significant administrative burdens, including managing license renewals, tracking fees, and meeting varying continuing education requirements. This compact would streamline licensure, allowing dietitians to focus more on patient care rather than bureaucratic challenges.

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

Christina Hamelin

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