

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

Megan Martin, RDN, LDN

**Support for H 5067 - DIETITIAN LICENSURE COMPACT**

Hearing: Tuesday Feb 4, 2025

**Dear Chairman Soloman and Members of the Committee,**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a testimony in support of the Dietitian Licensure Compact legislation. My name is Megan Martin, I am a Registered Dietitian and a Richmond, RI, resident. I specialize in pediatric nutrition and the integration of nutrition and lifestyle medicine care in mental health treatment. I testify in strong support of H 5067. This bill is essential in expanding access to critical nutrition services for vulnerable populations, including children and adults with mental health conditions.

Research clearly shows that proper nutrition plays a crucial role in both childhood development and mental health treatment. However, many individuals face barriers to accessing qualified nutrition professionals in these specialty areas. This specialty care is especially hard to come by for families of children with neurodevelopmental conditions like Autism Spectrum Disorder, where up to 89% of children on the spectrum display some type of eating or feeding issue. The licensure compact would allow dietitians to provide care across state lines, helping bridge the gap for families and patients who struggle to find specialists in their area. For children with neurodevelopmental, psychological or medical conditions requiring tailored nutrition support, timely and consistent care can be life-changing. Likewise, adults undergoing treatment for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, depression, anxiety, and other mental health conditions benefit significantly from medical nutrition therapy as part of treatment plan.

By passing this bill, we can ensure that more patients receive the specialized, evidence-based nutrition care they need to support their health and well-being. I urge you to support this legislation to improve access to care, remove unnecessary barriers to essential nutrition services, and pave the way for a happier, healthier future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information on how this bill would positively impact patients in our state and beyond.

Sincerely,

*Megan Martin*

Megan Martin, RDN, LDN  
RI Nutrition Therapy, LLC  
320 Phillips St, Suite 203, North Kingstown RI, 02852  
401-584-0173  
megan@rinutritiontherapy.com