

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

Megan McCallig

Support for H 5067 - DIETITIAN LICENSURE COMPACT

Hearing: Tuesday Feb 4, 2025

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the Dietitian Licensure Compact legislation. My name is Megan McCallig and I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (dietitian) from South Kingstown, RI. I am a dietitian at Rhode Island Nutrition Therapy, a small group practice that offers high-quality, evidence-based nutrition care to patients in several states. I testify in strong support of the H 5067, Dietitian Licensure Compact, which would decrease the administrative burden required for dietitians to be licensed in multiple states.

One of the most compelling reasons to support this compact is the potential to improve access to nutrition services, particularly for individuals in underserved areas. For example, I have worked with patients who reside in multiple states throughout the year and often travel for work. Due to the state-specific licensure requirements, I am unable to provide consistent care across state lines for these patients. If the Dietitian Licensure Compact were enacted, I would be able to seamlessly continue supporting these patients without interruptions or delays, improving their overall health outcomes. 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.

Megan McCallig, MS, RDN
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