

May 16, 2019

TO: Members of the Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid Committee

FROM: Pat McKnight, MS, RDN, LD.
Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

RE: Amendment – G 133_0143 - Dietetics Liaison position

In 1989, when the Dietetics licensure act was passed, the legislators on the House Commerce and Labor Committee thought it was important to have an official liaison from the profession on licensure boards so that the professions and the Boards were communicating the concerns and needs of the public being served. They recognized the need for regulatory boards to communicate regularly and effectively with professional associations in order to effectively and efficiently keep abreast of changing science and practice standards that would best protect the public. (OAC 4759-3-04)

When Dietetics was added in 2018 to the Medical Board the Dietetics Advisory Council was formed. The liaison position was removed by the Medical Board. The need for the professional association liaison position is even more important now since there are no dietitian members on the Medical Board.

The reasons that the Medical Board staff presented for rescinding this position included:

1. Allowing the public to participate in the Dietetics Advisory Council meetings would make the meetings go on too long.

Our response:

- a. It is easy to control the time allowed for public or professional input. Arbitrarily requiring the Dietetic Council meetings to be the same length of time as the other committees is not efficient or effective. DAC meets on a separate day prior to Board meetings and meets only quarterly, not monthly as most of the Medical Board committees meet.
- b. It is important for the Councils to hear the concerns of the licensees. It is actually more efficient for the association representing licensees to be able to consolidate the concerns of its members and share the information with the Council or Board as appropriate.
- c. Council members who travel 1- 2 or more hours from outside of Central Ohio to attend short meetings will surely soon become frustrated and likely to re-prioritize their efforts to attend at all. It is important that the meetings be worth their time. Allowing adequate input and discussion makes the meeting of value to all.

2. No other professions licensed by the Medical Board have a similar position required by statute or rule.

Our response:

- a. We understand why it makes it easier for Medical Boardstaff to have us all consistent, but is that the best way to serve the licensees and the public ???
- b. Waiting to engage input from the affected professions until the formal Rules process starts or the rules go to JCARR is not a good way to address issues that could be resolved before they get to the Rules process.

The Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics asks for your support for amendment G 133_0143 which will reinstate the liaison position. Thank you for your consideration of our request.