



# INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date Dec 1, 2020

Name: Pat McKnight, MS, RDN, LD

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Organization Representing: Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Testifying on Bill Number: SB 305

Testimony:     Verbal             Written             Both

Testifying As:     Proponent             Opponent             Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist?     Yes             No

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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December 1, 2020

TO: Chairman Hackett and Members of the Insurance and Financial  
Institutions Committee

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

The Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics supports the concept of telehealth. We know that certainly in the current pandemic, but also in many other settings, providing health care services via telehealth can be cost effective and acceptable to both the patient and the provider.

Our concern with SB 305 is that dietitians are not listed as possible providers of medical nutrition therapy – services by a licensed, registered dietitian nutritionist via telehealth. Current scientific evidence indicates that nutrition is KEY in both the prevention and the treatment of chronic disease. Chronic disease is not only expensive to manage, but also compromises quality of life and the services of a dietitian are less expensive than medication, surgery and other types of health care.

We are asking that dietitians, licensed in ORC 4759, be added to the list of possible providers of telehealth in SB 305. A similar bill, HB 679 currently in the Senate, does include dietitians as telehealth providers. Please make that change in SB 305.