

December 17, 2024

Chairman D.J. Swearingen  
Health Provider Services Committee in the House  
77 S. High St., 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

120 South Riverside Plaza  
Suite 2190  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6995  
800.877.1600

1150 Connecticut Avenue NW  
Suite 615  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
800.877.0877

Dear Chairman Swearingen and Members of the Health Provider Services Committee:

Ohio stands at the forefront of an opportunity to provide national leadership by enacting S.B. 211, the Dietitian Licensure Compact. This Compact, developed through a collaboration between the Department of Defense, The Council of State Governments, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics promises a multitude of advantages. Notably, it grants licensees the freedom to practice across multiple states, facilitates mobility for various demographics such as military personnel and their families, bolsters public safety, and streamlines workforce development by alleviating unnecessary licensure hurdles.

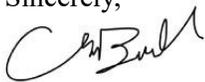
The Dietitian Licensure Compact, finalized in November 2023, represents a significant step forward for the profession. By enacting S.B. 211, Ohio would join Alabama, Nebraska, and Tennessee in adopting this groundbreaking legislation during the 2024 legislative session. Nationwide advocacy efforts aim to introduce the Compact in over 20 additional states in 2025. To establish the Dietitian Licensure Compact Commission, at least seven states must pass the legislation. If Ohio approves S.B. 211 in 2024, the state will play a pivotal role in shaping the rules and regulations that will govern the Compact once the Commission is formed.

The benefits of embracing the Dietitian Licensure Compact are many for Ohio. It promises diminished administrative burdens, heightened operational efficiency, and access to a shared compact database crucial for expediting licensure procedures and disciplinary measures. Moreover, it fosters enhanced collaboration among state licensure boards, particularly in the realms of investigation and conflict resolution, all while ensuring Ohio's continued jurisdiction over practicing licensees within its borders.

Enacting the Dietitian Licensure Compact would foster positive economic growth within Ohio. It would catalyze healthcare workforce expansion, particularly in rural areas, open new market avenues for dietitians, and attract dietetic students and professionals to the state. This, in turn, would translate to reduced healthcare expenditures for Ohio citizens through heightened patient access and continuity of care under the guidance of qualified dietitians.

On behalf of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the 112,000 dietetic professionals we represent, including nearly 4,766 residing in Ohio, we implore your support for the passage of the Dietitian Licensure Compact in Ohio. By seizing this opportunity, Ohio can pave the way for a brighter, more interconnected future in the realm of dietetics, benefiting both its citizens and the broader healthcare landscape.

Sincerely,



Charla M. Burill, JD, RD  
Senior Director State Legislative & Government Affairs  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics