

Proponent Testimony (written only)

RE: SB 211 Dietitian Licensure Compact

Ohio House Health Provider Services Committee

RE: SB 211 – Dietitian Licensure Compact

Date: December 17, 2024

From: Margaret Huey, MS, RD, LD

Chairman Swearingen, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Provider Services Committee, my name is Margaret Huey. I am submitting written testimony today as a Proponent of SB 211 - Dietitian Licensure Compact bill.

As a constituent and licensed Dietitian in Ohio, I urge you to support SB 211 Dietitian Licensure Compact bill introduced by Senator Kristina Roegner and currently assigned to the Senate Health Committee. Passage of this legislation is the first step in forming an interstate licensure compact for dietitians that will support the mobility of licensed dietitians through the development of a new interstate compact. This additional licensing pathway will facilitate multistate practice among member states and reduce the barriers to license portability.

The Ohio Legislature has already recognized the need for licensure reform as demonstrated by enacting compact legislation for other Ohio professions - including Physicians, Nurses, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Psychologists, Counselors, etc. Ohio Dietitians would like similar consideration. As proposed, the Dietitian Licensure Compact will have numerous benefits:

Benefits for Dietitians

- Expands employment opportunities into new markets.
- Eases the burden of applying for and maintaining multiple licenses.
- Supports relocating military spouses and families.
- Improves continuity of care.

Benefits for the State

- Promotes workforce development and strengthens labor markets.
- Expands consumer access to highly qualified practitioners.
- Enhances public safety through a shared interstate data system of licensure and disciplinary information, allowing for rapid verification of licensure status and cooperation among states.
- Preserves state sovereignty.

Benefits for my Business

- Expanded access of required care into more rural locations. As a provider in Cincinnati, I receive many requests from patients in rural areas throughout Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. The Dietitian Licensure Compact would allow me to expand my reach and serve additional patients in need through telehealth services.
- Consistent care available to pediatric clients with split households. The Dietitian Licensure Compact would allow continued care for a pediatric client during the time of visits to parents/guardians homes living outside of Ohio. As a pediatric provider this is of extreme value.
- Improved care for clients/patients with transportation concerns

Please support the enactment of SB211 Dietitian Licensure Compact in Ohio.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Margaret Huey, MS, RD, LD

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