

Proponent Testimony - In Writing only

Ohio Senate Health Committee Hearing RE: SB 211 – Dietitian Licensure Compact

Date April 24, 2024

Lorna Fuller, Ph.D., RDN, LD.  
Sr. HR. Manager/Training at Sodexo  
UH Management Service Center  
3605 Warrensville Center Road  
Shaker Heights, OH 44128

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee, my name is Lorna Fuller. I am submitting testimony to you today as a Proponent of SB 211 - Dietitian Licensure Compact bill.

I am a Registered and Licensed Dietitian in Ohio. I am employed by Sodexo, a global quality of life for-profit organization, which has its US Headquarters in Maryland. Originating out of France, Sodexo has a long history in the United States and serves millions of people daily. Sodexo currently provides quality-of-life services for those in healthcare, universities, senior living, government (we feed the Marines and Army Reserves), energy & resources, corporate services, and K-12 schools. Sodexo also has a solid partnership with Erving (Magic) Johnson, which we call Sodexo Live. Sodexo is committed to small and diverse businesses, responsible sourcing and sustainability, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, and eradicating childhood hunger through our Stop Hunger Foundation. Some key information about Sodexo in North America, we have over 3,400 sites, with 76% providing food services and 24% in the facilities management space. Additionally, Sodexo has a presence in 45 countries serving 80 million consumers daily in 27,000 sites.

My role at Sodexo is as an HR and Training Manager. In this role, I support over 180 managers and approximately 12 hourly employees for HR-related activities, such as employee engagement, professional development, recruiting, and retention efforts at a major hospital system in Northeast Ohio. Additionally, my responsibility is the oversight of training for both frontline and managers within five of the service lines that we at Sodexo support. They include Environmental Services, Food & Nutrition Services, Bioengineering, Facilities Management, and Construction Services. In this position, I am connected with the Director of Nutrition Services and the Clinical Nutrition Managers who support this large healthcare system. Having worked previously as a Clinical Nutrition Manager, I understand the importance of Dietitians (RDNs) being able to obtain licenses for multistate practice. The ability of our Dietitians to follow their patients whether the RDN relocates, or the patient relocates, can improve patient engagement, improves public safety, and supports workforce development. There have been instances where dietitians have had to secure licensure from multiple states due to their

job and the cost was astronomical. This bill's passage would help reduce the licensure burden and help expand access to nutrition care nationwide by enhancing community health by providing access to care for patients and clients.

One of the benefits that we tout in Sodexo is that our employees who need to relocate to another US state can apply and work in other Sodexo accounts in similar roles, our Dietitians included. Thus, reducing unnecessary licensure burdens on these individuals would be beneficial to the Dietitians and the Licensure Boards of compact member states. The successful passage of this bill will, in my opinion, enhance staffing flexibility between states, and expand consumer access to highly qualified practitioners. Last, but not least, the Dietitian Licensure Compact will positively impact diversity in the workforce. Being able to follow the healthcare of patients whom one has established a rapport with goes a long way to improve adherence to nutrition education and recommendations made by dietitians.

I respectfully request that you support Ohio's participation in the Dietitian Compact by approving SB 211 - The Dietitian Licensure Compact legislation that is before this committee.

I appreciate your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this testimony. I can be reached at [Lorna.Fuller@Sodexo.com](mailto:Lorna.Fuller@Sodexo.com) or by phone: at 216-663-4340.

Sincerely,

Lorna Fuller, Ph.D., RDN, LD.