Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
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Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
HB 59 Occupational Licensing Reform

April 15, 2026

Chairman, Susan Manchester, Vice-Chair Andrew Brenner, Ranking Member Casey Weinstein and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide interested-party testimony on behalf of the Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (OAND) about HB 59. OAND is the professional association representing over 4,000 Ohio dietitians who practice nutrition and dietetics and support the health of our fellow citizens.

I have practiced dietetics in Ohio for 49 years, was the Executive Director of the Ohio Board of Dietetics for 12 years when it was an independent licensure board, and volunteer as a public policy advocate for OAND. Since dietitians are now licensed and regulated by the State Medical Board of Ohio (SMBO), we are concerned about how the licensure fee reductions proposed in HB 59—an occupational licensing reform bill—might impact SMBO, our members, and the people who depend on our nutrition services.

HB 59 proposes to significantly lower dietitian license fees – from $225 to $95 for an initial license and $180 to $95 for biennial renewal of a license and from $65 to $50 for a limited permit license. As licensees, we love a bargain. and appreciate efforts to reduce costs that are burdensome. However, we understand that a good deal might bring unexpected outcomes as well.

SMBO relies solely on licensing proceeds to run its credentialing programs and licensure services, investigate complaints against practitioners, and provide proper discipline of licensees who violate public trust and may cause harm.

Lowering dietitian licensure fees may seem attractive, even though OAND members have never identified dietitian license cost as burdensome in Ohio. But as SMBO costs rise and operational budgets shrink the board's ability to focus on dietitian license programs could suffer. Diminished service quality would surely frustrate dietitians, could delay workforce entry, erode public trust in the profession, and endanger the health of Ohioans.

Licensure fees are not set arbitrarily. OAND encourages the committee to pursue a balanced approach to HB 59 that protects dietitian licensure program services, regulatory integrity, and public safety, when evaluating dietitian licensure fees proposed in HB 59.

Thank you for your consideration.