

**OHIO ACADEMY**  
of Nutrition and Dietetics

an affiliate of the  
**right** Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics



June 6, 2017

To: Chairman Scott Oelslager, Ranking Minority Member Michael Skindell and  
Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Kay Mavko, MS, RDN, LD  
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RE: HB 49

You all should have received written testimony from Pat McKnight, Chris Taylor in your materials today expressing the deep disappointment dietitians in Ohio have over the proposed changes to some of the health care licensure boards in HB 49 – and in particular the proposed abolishment of the Ohio Board of Dietetics (OBD). I admonish you to please make certain to review their concerns.

Written testimony has also been presented to the Senate Finance Health and Medicaid Subcommittee by employers of dietitians across Ohio (Dietary Solutions and Sodexo) who are concerned about the disruptions that will occur in the employment of dietitians when the licensing functions are moved to the Ohio State Medical Board (OSMB) - because it takes initial applicants over 5 times longer to have a license issued by OSMB than it does under the current independent Ohio Board of Dietetics!

Both Ms. McKnight and I have previously testified in subcommittee hearings and warned legislators that having the OSMB regulate the practice of dietetics is a terrible fit and will not adequately protect the public nor maintain the level of services to licensees or consumers as are currently being provided by the independent, efficient and effective OBD.

Today I want to focus upon the inadequate language in Sec. 4759.051 of HB 49 that supposedly creates a dietetics advisory council. It does not require that dietitians be appointed to the council - just “individuals who are knowledgeable in dietetics”. There are no educational requirements or qualifications for what makes one “knowledgeable”. The language does not require that the advisory council actually hold meetings, or that duties of the council be defined. The nebulous language is so vague that the council could do nothing! Certainly dietitians who are subject of oversight and discipline by OSMB should be required to have a place to provide meaningful input.

Ohio dietitians feel that the Ohio Board of Dietetics should remain an independent licensure board. However, if it continues to be the will of the legislature that licensure of dietitians be controlled by the OSMB the Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics respectfully requests that you support amendments that will buttress the advisory councils purpose.

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