May 28, 2019

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Pat McKnight, MS,RDN, LD

State Policy Representative

Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

The dietitian members of the Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics are asking for your support of these two amendments, submitted by Senator Bob Hackett

G1330142 – would simply give hospitals and other health care facilities the authority, via their own bylaws or privileging methods, to permit dietitians to order diets and work with physicians on TPN orders. This is not a mandate, but a permission to do this if they decided to do it. Back in 2014, CMS determined that dietitians should be writing diet orders and documented the cost savings for hospitals by permitting this. The problem came in Ohio when Pharmacy determined that the Administrative Rule was not sufficient for TPN orders and that the authority needed to be in the ORC. This amendment would provide what is needed.

G1330143 –would reinstate the liaison position for the Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics in the Dietetics Advisory Council under the State Medical Board. This liaison position existed for 30 years under the Ohio Board of Dietetics and served an important link between the profession and the board members. No authority if given to the liaison, it is an important communication link.

We ask for your support for both of these amendments for dietitians to better serve Ohioans.

Thank you.