

Proponent Testimony (written only)

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

Date: 4.2.24

From: Lisa Andrews, MEd RDN, LD, Sound Bites Nutrition

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

As a constituent, licensed Dietitian and small business owner 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:

- Increased referrals by physicians and other healthcare providers
- Increased insurance coverage for patients
- Expanded coverage for patients living outside of Ohio

The licensure compact could benefit me and my patients by allowing me to provide telehealth services across state lines. It also allows me to provide continuity of care to patients who reside in border states such as Kentucky and Indiana. In addition, it reduces the cost of licensure for my participation in multistate nutrition research projects.

Please support the enactment of SB211 Dietitian Licensure Compact in Ohio.  
Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

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