

April 24, 2024

Senator Stephen A. Huffman
Chairman, Senate Health Committee
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor, 040
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Huffman and Members of the Senate Health Committee:

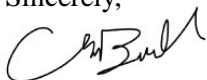
Ohio stands at the forefront of an opportunity to provide national leadership by enacting S.B. 211, the Dietitian Licensure Compact. This Compact, developed through a collaboration between the Department of Defense, The Council of State Governments, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics promises a multitude of advantages. Notably, it grants licensees the freedom to practice across multiple states, facilitates mobility for various demographics such as military personnel and their families, bolsters public safety, and streamlines workforce development by alleviating unnecessary licensure hurdles.

By supporting S.B. 211, Ohio joins Alabama, Iowa, Missouri, and Tennessee in advancing this recently finalized legislation. Furthermore, on April 2, 2024, the State of Nebraska enacted this legislation into law. The benefits of embracing the Dietitian Licensure Compact are many for Ohio. It promises diminished administrative burdens, heightened operational efficiency, and access to a shared compact database crucial for expediting licensure procedures and disciplinary measures. Moreover, it fosters enhanced collaboration among state licensure boards, particularly in the realms of investigation and conflict resolution, all while ensuring Ohio's continued jurisdiction over practicing licensees within its borders.

Crucially, enacting the Dietitian Licensure Compact would foster positive economic growth within Ohio. It would catalyze healthcare workforce expansion, particularly in rural areas, open new market avenues for dietitians, and attract dietetic students and professionals to the state. This, in turn, would translate to reduced healthcare expenditures for Ohio citizens through heightened patient access and continuity of care under the guidance of qualified dietitians.

On behalf of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the 112,000 dietetic professionals we represent, including nearly 4,766 residing in Ohio, we implore your support for the passage of the Dietitian Licensure Compact in Ohio. By seizing this opportunity, Ohio can pave the way for a brighter, more interconnected future in the realm of dietetics, benefiting both its citizens and the broader healthcare landscape.

Sincerely,



Charla M. Burill, JD, RD
Senior Director State Legislative & Government Affairs
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics