



4/24/24

To: Senator Stephen Huffman, Chairman
Ohio Senate Health Committee
Proponent Testimony (Written Only)

RE: SB 211 Dietitian Licensure Compact
From: Carrie Hamady, EDD MS RD LD FAND

Dear Chairman Huffman and Members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee:

On behalf of the Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the 4766 Registered Dietitians (RDs) in Ohio that we represent, I urge you to support the Dietitian Licensure Compact. Ohio has a unique opportunity to lead the nation in passing the Dietitian Licensure Compact with passage of SB 211. Developed collaboratively and transparently with the Department of Defense, The Council of State Governments, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the Dietitian Licensure Compact offers numerous benefits including:

- Facilitating multistate practice
- Increasing mobility for relocating individuals, such as military personnel and their families
- Improving public safety
- Promoting workforce development by reducing unnecessary licensure burdens

You may have received communication indicating that the Dietitian Licensure Compact “unfairly excludes other practitioners from licensure.” This is wrong. It is crucial to clarify that the Compact does not alter the licensing requirements in Ohio. As outlined in Section 4 of SB 211, the Compact simply mandates completion of programmatically accredited education and supervised practice programs, and passage of a nationally recognized examination. Programmatic accreditation, which is required by most health professions, ensures adherence to rigorous standards and a comprehensive foundation for clinical practice.

Attainment of the RD credential requires completion of programmatically accredited education and supervised practice. RD credentialed practitioners meet the standards for dietetic practice in all states. However, holding the RD credential is not required to participate in the Compact; it merely serves as a pathway to access the Compact because it captures a standard of licensure uniformity across all states.

Importantly, the Dietitian Licensure Compact does not restrict the market or competition. It simply sets minimum standards for participation. Moreover, it reduces administrative burden, increases efficiency, fosters cooperation among state licensure boards, expands access to nutrition care, and supports health care workforce development, especially in rural areas.

I urge you to join us in passing SB 211. I am available to provide further information and assistance as needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carrie Hamady EDD MS RD LD FAND
President
Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics