

February 14th, 2024

Dear Senators of the State Government Committee,

As registered and licensed dietitian nutritionists and dietetics students in Iowa, we strongly recommend maintaining Iowa dietetics licensure and the Iowa Board of Dietetics. This recommendation not only impacts RDNs' ability to continue their practice but also impacts **the constitutional duty of our state government to protect its citizens.**

Similar to other healthcare professions, professional regulation of Licensed Dietitian Nutritionists aims to safeguard the public by **identifying qualified practitioners and enabling recourse for incompetent care or harmful advice.** Licensure laws guide the public to qualified providers, protecting against negligence and the dissemination of inaccurate nutrition recommendations that can harm health and lead to unnecessary expenses.

While RDNs practice in a variety of settings, licensure is particularly important in the context of the practice of **medical nutrition therapy (MNT)**, which is nutrition care aimed at treating a **disease state or medical condition.** MNT is a specialized form of evidence-based nutrition care and differs from general nutrition or health education.

MNT provides RDNs with the ability to **manage complex medical conditions** such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, kidney disease, malnutrition, and gastrointestinal (GI) disorders. RDNs are highly qualified to provide health-promoting nutrition recommendations for individuals receiving nutrition support through feeding tubes or IVs within the setting of complicated surgeries and while considering the various drugs or treatments patients are on.

Without licensure, anyone, qualified or not, may provide dietetic services. Licensure **ensures only qualified nutrition practitioners** are authorized to treat individuals with medical conditions, creating accountability and safeguarding the public by regulating all providers of medical nutrition therapy services, not just RDNs.

Licensure allows RDNs to practice at their level of competence. Without licensure, RDNs have no legal authority to practice medical nutrition therapy, the service for which they are trained and most qualified to provide.

It is also important to note that dietetics licensure **supports employment opportunities** and access to nutrition care in Iowa:

- Generally, **payers, such as insurance companies, look to licensure** to identify who is a qualified provider of medical nutrition therapy and to **assess a practitioner's eligibility for reimbursement**. Requiring licensure of qualified dietetics practitioners **expands access to nutrition care and income opportunities for RDNs**.
- The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics in collaboration with the Council of State Governments is working to streamline the licensure of RDNs by introducing an **interstate compact**. States' participation in the Dietitian Licensure Compact is contingent upon states licensing and regulating the practice of dietetics. If a state does not license RDNs, that state will not be able to seek the Compact benefits such as **expanded nutrition care access** for Iowa citizens, **increased income opportunities for RDNs**, and **support for active duty military and their spouses**.
- Maintaining licensure would increase opportunities for RDNs to participate in the compact, **enticing more RDNs to live in Iowa and contribute to the Iowa economy**. This is especially helpful to RDNs who live on/near the borders of our state. States without licensure, such as Michigan, are increasingly seeing patients/clients receive MNT outside of their state.

Additionally, maintaining the effective and efficient Iowa Board of Dietetics is essential to protecting Iowa citizens from unethical, harmful nutrition care.

- **There is no taxpayer expense associated with the Board of Dietetics**. The fees that Licensed Dietitians pay to renew their license cover all costs incurred by the department that provides oversight. This Board has proven to be cost-effective and it operates consistently in the black each year.
- **The Board of Dietetics is efficient with its meetings**. The Board of Dietetics meets quarterly, and as needed. It has held virtual meetings for several years, when appropriate.
- **The Board of Dietetics compensates its members**. The Board of Dietetics is comprised of both professional and citizen members and these Board members are provided compensation for their service to the citizens of Iowa.

We urge the Iowa legislature to maintain the dietetics licensure and the Board of Dietetics during the upcoming legislative session and beyond for the protection and health of Iowa citizens, and support of employment opportunities for qualified nutrition care practitioners.

**Iowa Registered Dietitians/Nutrition signatures (Iowa zip code):**

Abbie Scott, RDN, LD, Private Practice and Clinical (Hospital/Behavioral Health) (50315)- **Keep Iowa licensure so constituents aren't more at risk from receiving negligible nutrition information from unlicensed individuals!**

Nicole Rodenkirk RDN, LD, CLS, Registered Dietitian in the WIC program (50265)- **It is essential to ensure our licensures and credentials to be able to help families in prevention of comorbidities while simultaneously ensuring we are up to date with the highest of education in our field of nutrition and dietetics.**

Miriam Troutner MS RD LDN CNSC, Clinical care (52001)- **Licensure is what sets us apart from other providers to the public. Consolidate the board, but please keep our licensure.**

Brannan Murphy MS, RDN LD, Cardiac Rehabilitation Outpatient Dietitian, (52761)- **Should you choose to eliminate our Board and our licensure, people will fall ill with the plethora of misinformation out there regarding nutrition and health. We also will still be responsible for our massive amount of debt we gained to acquire our licensure without a job.**

Erin Hoisington, RDN, Aging Nutrition (50046)

Regan Janssen, Dietetic intern (50023)

Laura Parsons, Government (50021)

Jill Ardueser, Dietetics student (50014)

Katie Lashier, RD, LD, Long term care (50021)

Amber Baughman, MS, RD, LD, Clinical Assistant Professor (50010)

Elizabeth Olsen, MS, RD, LD, Clinical dietitian in a critical access hospital (50022)

Brianna Montross, RD, LD, Healthy Food Access Specialist (52241)

Renee M Greiner RDN LD, Foodservice distribution and menu writing (50624)

Kristen Twinam, Student, (52621)

Jennifer Norgaard, RD LD, Community Nutrition (50021)

Amanda Thul, RD, LD, Inpatient and outpatient clinical dietitian (50548)

Amber Frederick RDN/LD, Clinical Nutrition Manager (52242)

Mary Sell, MPA, RDN, LD, Menu Services Manager (50613)

Susan Carlson, RDN, LD, School Nutrition Dietitian- Ankeny CSD (50023)

Mareah Stallsmith, MBA, RD, LD Wellness Manager, (50226)

Kerri A. Roling, RD K-12 School Nutrition Director, (50327)

Sydney Rottinghaus Master of Clinical Nutrition student/dietetic intern (50401)

Hannah Sorrell, Master of Clinical Nutrition student (52246)

Jackie Ament, RDN, School nutrition (52046)

Maddie Sickels RD, LD, Inpatient/Outpatient Clinical Dietitian (50833)

Anne Cundiff, RD, LD, FAND, Corporate Retail (50263)

Ashley Danielson, RDN, Aging Nutrition, Government (50323)

Tracey Sauke, RD, LD, Community dietitian (50613)

Emily Wood, RDN, Masters student in Nutrition and Dietetics (50014)

Alyson Fendrick, RD, Marketing Communications Manager in Agriculture (50327)  
 Jesell Souhrada, NDTR, Dietetic Intern, ED Medical Scribe, MPH student (52722)  
 Jody Gatewood MS, RD, LD, Assistant State Nutrition Program Specialist (50014)  
 Veronica Buis, Student, (50014)  
 Martha McClurg, MPH, RD, LD, On career sabbatical to raise young children (52403)  
 Denise Boozell RDL, CDCES, Diabetes Educator, (50166)  
 Morgan Farnham, Student (50543)  
 Lauren Slagle, Student (50322)  
 Melissa Anker, RD, LD, Clinical Dietitian, Bariatric and weight loss (50273)  
 Allysa Ballantini-Clements, MPP-D, RD, LD, Telehealth Medical Nutrition Therapy (50315)  
 Hannah Ledeboer MS, RD, LD, Clinical dietitian/bariatrics (50023)  
 Pamela G Eaton, RD, LD, Renal Dietitian in dialysis clinics (51544)  
 Janette Batts, RDN LD, Clinical dietitian in dialysis unit (50023)  
 Summer McVicker, Dietetic Intern (50010)  
 Annette Snyder, MS, RD, CSOWM, LD, Private Practice (50525)  
 Britt McConnell, RD, College foodservice (52246)  
 Tia Muilenburg, BS in dietetics, Masters of Nutrition and Dietetics student (50126)  
 Erin Bergquist MPH RD LD, Clinical Professor, Education (50201)  
 Brooke Tasler, RDN, LD, Food Service Management/Clinical Dietitian, (51442)  
 Lyndi Buckingham-Schutt, PhD, RDN, LD, Assistant Professor of Human Nutrition (50014)  
 Karen Foster RDN LD, Cardiometabolic Specialist for Omada Health (52101)  
 Allyson Willits RD, LD, Clinical Dietitian in hospital setting (52722)  
 Cole Hopkins, MPPD, RD Clinical Dietitian (50309)  
 Cindy Kamies, MS, LD/RD WIC Dietitian/nutrition education (51031)  
 Melissa Lewis, RD, JD, Dietitian/Health & Well-Being (50029)  
 Stephanie Johnson, RD, LD, WIC Dietitian (52577)  
 Michelle McGovern RD, LD, CDCES, Registered Dietitian, Diabetes Educator (52233)  
 Karen Uhrich, MS, RD, LD, CDCES, CPT, Certified Diabetes and Education Specialist/Diabetes Education (52722)  
 Savannah Schultz, MS, RDN, LD, Long-term care (50014)  
 Sidneigh O'Leary, MS, RDN, LDN WIC Registered Dietitian (50021)  
 Kaitlyn Milligan RD, LD, WIC Dietitian (52317)  
 Angie Tagtow, DrPH, MS, RD, LD Founder & Chief Strategist; Akta Strategies, LLC; public health, public policy, leadership and organizational development (50073)  
 Ashley McKenna, Dietetic Grad Student and Intern, (50131)  
 Anthony Kinley, MS, RDN, Corporate Dietitian (50310)  
 Danielle Crail, RD, LD, CPA in WIC clinic (50401)  
 Rachael Booth RDN, LD, Women Infant Children (WIC), (50021)  
 Anne Cundiff RD, LD, FAND, Retail (50263)

Taylor Carrick, MS, RDN, LMNT, Corporate Registered Dietitian (51566)  
Alexandria Nguyen, RDN, LD, CLS, Registered Dietitian with WIC (50021)  
Beth Barber, RD LD Public health nutrition WIC program, (50643)  
Virginia Brown MFCS RD, Program Coordinator and Registered Dietitian/Bariatrics (50613)  
Heidi Leeds, MPPD, RD, Consultant Telehealth Dietitian (50036)  
Michelle Diers RD, LD, Long-term care dietitian (50158)  
Margaret E. Hahn, MS RD CNSC, Adult Nutrition Specialist-adult critical care/nutrition support (tube feeding and IV nutrition therapy (50322)  
Carissa Calderwood, Masters of Clinical Nutrition Student (50675)  
Caitlin Connor, RD, LDN (50428)  
Toni Wilson, RD, Extension/Community Nutrition (51526)  
Elizabeth Johnson RD, LD, Renal Nutrition (52404)  
Sarah N Davenport RD, LD, CLS, Nutrition Services Coordinator for the State of Iowa WIC Program (50226)  
Michele Ries, RD, LD, CNSC, Clinical dietetics/critical care (52246)  
Stephanie Johnson, RDN, LD, Long term care/serving the aging population (50003)  
Erin Person MS, RD, Performance Nutrition, (50003)  
Janet Weber, RD, LD, RN, IBCLC, WIC Registered & Licensed Dietitian, Registered Nurse, IBCLC (50643)  
Debra Kyler RD, LD, Outpatient Hospital Dietetics (50701)  
Jennessa Sharratt, Masters of Clinical Nutrition Student (52246)  
Michelle Mullins, RD, Select Specialty Hospital (50266)  
Marlena Castro, MS, RD, LDN, Remote Dietitian for Mercy One (50401)  
Joshlyn Krapfl, Student (52065)  
Karen Meyer, RD, LD, Long-term care (52003)  
Madison Kelly, RD, Clinical dietitian (51503)  
Megan Dalsing RD, LD, Community Nutrition - Hy-Vee Store Dietitian (52002)  
Natalia Smychkova Dietetics student (50266)  
Carsen Meggison, MS, RD, LD, CNSC, Clinical Dietitian/Nutrition Specialist in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (50266)  
Elizabeth Zmolek, RDN, Consultant Dietitian, Critical Access Hospitals and LTC (52537)  
Michelle Russell, RD, LD, CEDS, Dietitian/Owner - private practice nutrition counseling (52601)  
Sierra Weldon, dietetics graduate student, graduate student and dietetic intern (52240)  
Allison Fedoris, MS, RD, LDN, Clinical Dietitian/inpatient acute care (52403)  
Jennifer Thompson RD, LD, CDCES, Certified Diabetes Educator/Diabetes Education (50208)  
Karen Buchholz, RDN, LD, Retired (50322)  
Stefanie Riley, RDN, LD, Clinical dietitian as well as outpatient (52601)  
Kaitlyn Scheuermann, MPP-D, RDN, LD Dietitian, School Nutrition (50036)  
Carlene Russell, RDN, Geriatric Dietitian (retired) (50327)

Teresa Ann Romey (retired RDN LD), Long term care dietitian (51463)  
Brandy K Strub, MS, RD/LD, Hospital Dietitian (52172)  
Emily Wood RD, LD Registered Dietitian (50014)  
Ann Parker MHS, RDN, LD, Education (50009)  
Andrea Weber, MS, RD, LD, DaVita Clinical Dietitian, (50638)  
Angela Munson, RD, LD, WIC, Dietitian/Coordinator-HACAP (52403)  
Teresa R Boring RD, LD, CDE, Dietitian Peoples Community Health Clinic (50703)  
Julie Thilges, RD, LD, Clinical Dietitian, Unity Point, independent consultant (50112)  
Catherine Rudolph, MS, RD, Aging nutrition research (50014)  
Nancy Pisarik, RD, LD, Consulting in long-term nursing homes (52314)  
Kara Wood, MS, RDN, LD, Lead dietitian/dialysis (52317)  
Jenna Roeding MMN, RDN, LD, Nephrology (50266)  
Nicole Tramp MS, RD, LD, CDCES, Clinical Associate Professor (50010)  
Jackie Bertelsen, RD, LMNT, Diabetic educator, now working for Bertelsen Beef (51576)  
Jenn Schultz, MS, RDN, LD, School nutrition (50325)  
Mridul Datta, PhD, RD, LD, FAND, Education (50021)  
Allison Kruger RDN, LD, CDCES Inpatient & Outpatient Dietitian and Diabetes Educator (50483)  
Leah Brooke, MS, RDN, LD, Food and Health Specialist - community dietetics (51566)  
Marianne G Campbell RD, LD, LMNT- Renal Nutrition (51503)  
Beth A Nichols MS RDN LD CDCES Clinical Territory. Manager/Diabetes and education for insulin pumps/glucose sensors (50208)  
Denisha Johnson, RD, LDN, Clinical dietitian - acute care (50312)  
Alisha Sandage, RD, LD, LMNT, Oncology Dietetics (51101)  
Theresa Eberhardt RDN, LD, CLC, Community dietitian with WIC (52043)  
Molly Muchow, RD, LD, Clinical and research (50021)  
Whitney Black, MS, RD, LD, LMNT, Dialysis (51503)  
Lynda Graham-Murray, MA, RDN, LD, Community dietetics (52601)  
Julie Klein, RD, LD Dietitian in a Rural Community Hospital (51537)  
Lindsey DeWall, RD, LD Renal dialysis (50571)  
Annie Romanowski, MS, RDN, LDN, Pediatric Dietitian - Gastroenterology (50010)  
Maren Wolff, PhD, RDN, LD, Clinical Assistant Professor (50014)  
Brian Smith RDN, LD, Clinical nutrition (50311)  
Cathy Drost, RD, LD, CPH, Food and Health Specialist, Extension (52577)  
Jodie Huegerich, UNI Local Food Program Manager (50613)  
Lisa Woodruff, RDN, LD, Specializing in pediatric food allergy (52302)  
Stephany Brimeyer, RDN LD, Manager of Nutrition Services in statewide system for children with special health care needs (52722)

**Non-RDN signatures of support (Iowa zip code):**

Sheyann Sundeman, RN, DaVita Dialysis (50836)  
Kathy Travis, Cosmetologist Iowa license (51544)  
Lori Carlson LPN, LPN/DaVita Dialysis (51601)  
Jessica Schaack ARNP, Nurse practitioner, Nephrology (50109)  
Peyton Carolus, LMSW, Medical Social Worker (50327)  
Liberty Ahrens, RN, Registered Nurse/DaVita IOWA (50801)  
Chessy L. Fahey, RN BSN, Registered nurse at DaVita Inc.  
Maria Fecundo, ARNP, Associate in Kidney Care, (50315)  
Fawn Roberts, ARNP, Family Nurse Practitioner (50533)  
Jessica Mathisen PA-C, Physician Assistant in Nephrology (50323)  
Mary Steffensmeier, Diabetes and Nutrition Program Coordinator (50702)  
Kristin Johnson (50322)  
Scot Johnson (50322)  
Jacob Pendergraft (51566)  
Tory Carrick (51566)  
Danielle, Farm Loan Office (52535)  
Michaela Buntrock, Elevate Eyecare (50022)  
Bailey Vial (51566)  
Alexandria Kenney, Business administration (51561)  
Lainie Edie, Masters Grant Manager (51566)  
Dhivya Sundaramurthy, Nephrologist (50309)  
Sarah Shomshor APRN, Nurse Practitioner (51503)  
Kate White (51503)  
Cathy Mann (51503)  
Jonathan Sayre Wood (50014)  
Traci Brockman, RN, Director of Specialty Services - direct supervisor of Clinical Nutrition program (50022)