

Hello, my name is Tami Butterfield, and I am submitting my testimony on behalf of myself and other Certified Nutrition Specialists (CNS) in Oregon. I am asking for your support of SB1174 as this bill will establish a clear pathway to licensure for Certified Nutrition Specialists in our state. In addition, I ask that the proposed amendments to Section 36 be included as they will safeguard my ability to retain my current status as a Licensed Dietician while ensuring a smooth transition to a nutrition license when it becomes available.

I would like to share with you a few ways in which this bill will personally impact me, my practice as a Certified Nutrition Specialist, and Oregonians;

1. Having a license signifies expertise and qualifications as a health professional and opens more job opportunities- this is what many employers who hire “dietitians” and “Nutritionists” require to apply for positions in clinics.
2. Insurance credential- Insurance companies require licensure for credentialing. With the ability to take insurance in my practice, I am able to build a more sustainable financial foundation that will allow me to engage in the work I love doing for my clients as a Certified Nutrition Specialist.
3. Oregonians who need to use insurance for nutrition services—most insurance policies cover Nutrition services, which means Oregonians will not need to pay for their nutrition care out of pocket. This will allow them to use their budgeted income on food that will support their health needs.

Again, I am asking for your support of SB1174 which will create a pathway to licensure for Certified Nutrition Specialists, in addition, it is critical that the proposed amendments to Section 36 are included with this bill to safeguard my current license as a Licensed Dietician during the transition to a Nutrition License.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill.

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