

Melinda Staehling Nutrition
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Dear Senate Committee on Health Care,

Thank you to Senator Deb Patterson and the Committee for your time developing and addressing Senate Bill 1174.

My name is Melinda Staehling, and I am speaking on behalf of myself and other Certified Nutrition Specialists in Oregon. I urge your support for SB1174, which establishes a clear pathway to licensure for Certified Nutrition Specialists in our state.

I am a Licensed Dietitian in Oregon and have maintained my licensure since June 2023. I have built my business in Bend, Oregon, through relationships in the local community and contracts with commercial insurance companies and the Oregon Health Plan. Billing insurance through these contracts is the foundation of my small business.

Melinda Staehling Nutrition mainly serves Oregonians dealing with eating disorders, a vulnerable population that requires thorough care coordination between nutrition, medical teams, and mental health services.

This bill, along with the amendments to Section 36, will enable my business to keep operating and serve my client base to the level of my training without interference to my license.

It is essential that the proposed amendments to Section 36 be incorporated along with SB 1174, as they will protect my ability to maintain my current status as a Licensed Dietitian while facilitating a seamless transition to a Nutritionist license when it becomes available.

Thank you again to the Committee for your development and support of SB 1174.

Sincerely,
Melinda Staehling MS, CNS, LD