

SWORD FERN NUTRITION



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Dear Senator Patterson and the Senate Committee on Health Care,

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my testimony with the Committee. My name is Jamie Menzel, and I am a Certified Nutrition Specialist® (CNS) and Licensed Dietitian. I write today in support of **SB1174** and the critical amendments to **Section 36**, which will create a more straightforward licensure pathway for CNSs in Oregon, as well as ensure continuity of care for the many Oregonians who rely on our expertise.

I have dedicated my career to providing advanced, evidence-based, and personalized nutrition care that directly improves the health and well-being of my clients. This bill will enable highly qualified nutrition professionals like myself to continue serving our communities without undue burden. Without a clear licensure pathway, qualified practitioners may leave the state or shift away from insurance-based care, reducing access to critical nutrition services. This would disproportionately impact lower-income individuals who depend on insurance coverage to receive the care they need. Ensuring the seamless transition outlined in SB1174 protects not only my livelihood but also the health of the many Oregonians I serve.

The amendments to Section 36 are critical, as they would safeguard my ability to maintain my current status as a Licensed Dietitian while facilitating a smooth transition to a Licensed Nutritionist designation when it becomes available. This directly affects my ability to retain numerous insurance contracts that make my services accessible to our most vulnerable Oregonians. Without this provision, I risk losing my ability to provide affordable care to many clients who rely on my support for managing chronic conditions, improving physical and mental health, and achieving overall wellness.

I urge you to support SB1174 and its proposed amendments to Section 36 to ensure that Oregon remains a state where high-quality, science-based nutrition care is accessible to all. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie Menzel, MScN, CNS, CN, LD