

Submitter: Jenna Veloz
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1174

Chair Patterson and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

I am a Registered and Licensed Dietitian in the state of Oregon and have held the RD credential since 2013. I am writing in support of SB1174, as I believe both Licensed Nutritionists and Licensed Dietitians play important roles in improving the health and well-being of Oregonians. Expanding licensure to include both professions will help ensure that more individuals have access to qualified nutrition professionals to support their diverse needs.

To best serve the public, it is essential to establish clear and distinct scopes of practice for each profession. Licensed Nutritionists provide valuable services such as nutrition education, health coaching, and wellness counseling, helping to prevent chronic disease and promote overall well-being. Their expertise is essential in community health programs, public health initiatives, and individualized nutrition guidance for those seeking to improve their general health.

Licensed Dietitians, on the other hand, receive extensive clinical training that qualifies them to provide nutrition therapy for individuals with medical conditions in settings such as hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, dialysis centers, and outpatient clinics. Additionally, Dietitians work in a variety of other settings, including: Public Health Programs (e.g., WIC, government-funded nutrition initiatives), Food Service Management (e.g., school nutrition programs, long-term care facilities), Private Practice (e.g., one-on-one nutrition counseling, corporate wellness), Sports Nutrition (e.g., collegiate and professional athletic programs), Research & Academia (e.g., universities, clinical trials, nutrition policy development), and Industry & Product Development (e.g., food companies, supplement formulation).

While there are overlap areas where both Licensed Nutritionists and Licensed Dietitians are qualified to work, such as community health programs, wellness coaching, and certain public health initiatives, there are also roles that specifically require the specialized training and clinical expertise of a Registered Dietitian. Certain settings that involve the provision of Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) or require advanced clinical decision-making, such as those in hospitals, long-term care, dialysis, and outpatient medical settings, must be clearly delineated as requiring a Registered and Licensed Dietitian per The Joint Commission and Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services.

Establishing clear licensure requirements when posting positions is critical to

ensuring that individuals receive care from professionals with the appropriate education and training. By recognizing and supporting both Licensed Nutritionists and Licensed Dietitians, Oregon can expand access to quality nutrition care while maintaining clear practice boundaries that protect public safety and uphold professional standards.

Thank you for considering this bill.