

Submitter: Barrett Gifford
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1174

My name is Barrett Gifford, and I am speaking on behalf of myself and other Certified Nutrition Specialists (CNS) in Oregon. I urge your support for SB1174, which establishes a clear pathway to licensure for Certified Nutrition Specialists in our state. Additionally, it is critical that the proposed amendments to Section 36 are included, as they safeguard my ability to retain my current status as a Licensed Dietitian while ensuring a smooth transition to a nutritionist license when it becomes available.

As a CNS specializing in gastrointestinal health and chronic disease including metabolic, cardiovascular and neurodegenerative disease, I have had the privilege of serving Oregon citizens for the past five years, with a track record of clinical successes through evidence-based nutrition interventions. I have seen remarkable transformations including reversal of chronic disease and improvements in health and quality of life of the patients I work with.

CNSs undergo rigorous graduate-level training in clinical nutrition, completing extensive coursework in biochemistry, physiology, and advanced nutritional science. This is complemented by supervised clinical practice and successful passage of a comprehensive board exam. Our specialized expertise allows us to provide individualized medical nutrition therapy, addressing the root causes of chronic disease and promoting long-term health outcomes.

In a state facing rising rates of chronic illness, access to licensed CNSs is essential. We offer a patient-centered, integrative approach that supports primary care providers and reduces healthcare costs through preventive and therapeutic nutritional care. Allowing CNS licensure would not only expand access to qualified nutrition professionals but also enhance collaborative healthcare efforts across Oregon.

I respectfully urge you to support this legislation and recognize the valuable role CNSs play in improving the health and well-being of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Barrett Gifford MS, CNS, LDN