

Submitter: Kelly Ornberg  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1174

My name is Kelly Ornberg and I am a Registered Dietitian and Licensed Dietitian from Bend, Oregon. I support Senate Bill 1174, which proposes modernizing state law to license all qualified dietetic and nutrition professionals and regulate the practice of medical nutrition therapy as a recognized component of medical care.

By creating two distinct pathways for licensure (Licensed Dietitian and Licensed Nutritionist) I believe this bill will improve efficiency in the provision of health care while also providing a measure for public safety.

I have the privilege of managing 20 Registered Dietitians who serve our tri-county area in Jefferson, Crook, and Deschutes County. They are exceptional individuals who work hard for their patients, care teams, and overall public health. My team holds advanced Board Certifications in Gerontological Nutrition, Oncology Nutrition, and Pediatric Nutrition through the Commission of Dietetic Registration. As well as a Board Certification as Certified Nutrition Support Clinician held by our ICU dietitian for managing enteral and parenteral nutrition support in our critical care patients. Several of the dietitians are also Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialists. We serve the four hospitals in Central Oregon, The Cancer Centers, as well as outpatient services including diabetes, eating disorders, weight management, gastrointestinal issues, bariatric surgery, pediatric feeding including enteral nutrition (tube feeding) and much more. We hold community classes, attend health fairs, and participate in county wide initiatives to improve the health of Central Oregonians. We also precept 1-2 dietetic interns every year for 7 months.

I've heard claims that Registered Dietitians mainly focus on food service, this couldn't be further from the truth. We do hold our food service partners accountable to provide the therapeutic diets ordered by the attending providers, but we are also managing the patients tube feeds (enteral nutrition), ordering labs for refeeding syndrome, working with babies and their families in the NICU, educating kids and families newly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, educating head and neck oncology patients how to initiate/maintain tube feedings, etc.

Please support Senate Bill 1174 which clearly defines the qualifications and scope of practice for licensed individuals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kelly Ornberg, RD, LD, CDCES

Bend, Oregon