



Senate Committee on Healthcare  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the National University of Natural Medicine (NUNM), I write to express my strong support for SB 1174, which formally recognizes and licenses the profession of nutritionists in Oregon alongside dietitians. This legislation will strengthen Oregon's public health infrastructure and ensure that our state has a qualified, well-regulated nutrition workforce to meet growing needs.

As Oregon's leading accredited institution for integrative health education, NUNM trains clinicians and researchers in evidence-informed approaches to nutrition, lifestyle, and chronic disease management. Many of our graduates with advanced degrees in nutrition are certified nutritionist specialists who are trained to provide medical nutrition therapy to patients. Yet under current Oregon law, their ability to fully and safely practice their profession remains limited by outdated regulatory frameworks.

SB 1174 provides a clear, rigorous path to licensure for qualified nutrition professionals, ensuring public safety while expanding access to individualized, culturally competent care. The bill establishes high standards for education, clinical training, and examination—requirements that reflect best practices nationally and mirror the competency-based approach we use at NUNM. It also ensures licensed nutritionists can participate meaningfully in telehealth, coordinated care, and multidisciplinary teams across diverse health care settings.

This legislation matters not only to our graduates, but to the long-term health of Oregonians. Nutrition-related chronic diseases are among the leading causes of death and disability in our state. By expanding the number of trained professionals who can offer preventative and therapeutic nutrition care—especially in underserved and rural communities—we can improve health outcomes and reduce health care costs.

We applaud the legislature for recognizing the critical role nutrition plays in population health, and we urge your support of SB 1174. This is a smart, timely investment in Oregon's workforce, its public health system, and its people.

Sincerely,

Melanie Henriksen, ND, LAc, CNM

President/CEO