

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to support LD 416 – An Act to Enact the Dietitian Licensure Compact. My name is Olivia Wyman and I am currently a graduate student and dietetic intern at the University of Maine. The Dietitian Licensure Compact will have a significant impact on dietetic students, particularly those transitioning from their supervised practice experiences into professional employment. Currently, students who complete their dietetic internships and seek jobs in multiple states must navigate complex and often time-consuming licensure processes. This creates unnecessary delays in workforce entry and discourages mobility, especially for new graduates eager to serve in high-demand areas.

Not only will the compact have positive impacts on interns, but also the population that we serve. As telehealth nutrition services grow, this compact will allow registered dietitians, including new graduates, to provide care across state lines without multiple licensure applications. This will result in increased access to evidence-based nutrition care, and improved health outcomes for citizens of Maine that qualified professionals can provide care where and when it is needed most. This is of particular importance for me because in my future career I would like to become a traveling dietitian as there is an increasing shortage of dietitians in the United States. By becoming a traveling dietitian I feel as though I would be able to help more people and have a greater impact on the health of people in different locations. This wouldn't just be helping me and my endeavors but also my fellow classmates, the classmates after me and even people already in the field. If someone else wanted to become a traveling dietitian or wanted to pursue a career involving telehealth or move to a different state they could easily and seamlessly. Together we can close the gap of need for dietitians in the United States and Maine.

By voting in favor of the Dietitian Licensure Compact, you are taking a proactive step to support both students and the long-term health of our communities. I urge you to pass this critical legislation, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration.