

Melissa L. Goddeau, RDN, CDN, LD
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Thank you, Representative Mathieson and all the members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee, for reviewing LD 416 An Act to Enact Dietitian Licensure Compact and the opportunity to enhance the dietetics profession in Maine.

As a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and military spouse, I am writing in favor of the proposed bill to enact the Dietitian Licensure Compact.

My dietitian career began at a private practice in New York that required state certification to bill insurance for nutrition services. While waiting for several months for my state certification and the subsequent insurance credentialing process, I was limited in the number of clients that I could serve and could not progress quickly enough to full-time employment to support our growing family, as I was pregnant with our third child.

About six months into my position as a clinical dietitian with Sodexo at a long-term care facility in upstate New York, my spouse was offered a federal civilian position in Maine and we decided to move our family to New Hampshire. Fortunately, I continued my employment with Sodexo and transitioned to temporary remote work. Other opportunities for remote work with Sodexo were available throughout the region, and having licensure compact would improve continuity of care within the network of dietitians in clinical and foodservice settings.

When I began searching for employment in the area, I chose to pursue licensure in New Hampshire and Maine, as I anticipated that licensure in multiple states would make me a more competitive and marketable applicant. However, the cost of maintaining licensure in both states was heavily considered, and the Dietitian Licensure Compact would ease this financial burden.

For the past year, I have been working in Maine as the Nutrition Coordinator for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program at York County Community Action. I am proud to serve the residents of York County by providing access to healthy foods, nutrition education, and community resources. Our main clinics are located in Sanford and Biddeford, and I staff one of our outreach clinics in Kittery, where we serve many military families stationed at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and Pease Air Force Base. I take great pleasure in connecting with military families, as my spouse is a Marine Veteran and currently serving in the Navy Reserves, and the Dietitian Licensure Compact would be an excellent way to support relocating military spouses and families.

Please consider supporting dietitians alongside the many other health professions by enacting the Dietitian Licensure Compact. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully submitted by

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LD 416

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