

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Rebecca MacLean and today I am providing written testimony on behalf of the Maine Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (MAND) as a proponent of LD 416, 'An Act to Enact the Dietitian Licensure Compact'.

Our professional association supports and strengthens the leadership and sustainability of the dietetic profession to have a positive impact on the health of Maine citizens. We believe that Maine's participation in the Dietitian Licensure Compact as proposed in LD 416 will help to provide licensed dietitians with opportunities for multistate practice, ease mobility for individuals who are relocating (especially military families), improve public safety, expand consumer access to highly qualified practitioners and promote workforce development by reducing unnecessary licensure burdens.

One of the reasons why Maine has been selected in the second year of Compact Legislation is due to the fact that we have demonstrated, through previous legislation, a commitment and appreciation for interstate compacts. Health professions that currently benefit from inclusion in state compacts in Maine include: Speech-Language Pathology, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physician Assistants, Dentist and Dental Hygienists, Social Work, Physicians, Nursing and Clinical Counseling. We hope that through the passage of this bill, Dietitians will be provided with the same benefits currently held by these professions. Maine is a leader in compact legislation, with 9 out of 17 available compacts passed. [Military Administrative Policy & Legislation | Military State Policy | Military Spouse Employment and Economic Opportunities](#)

In addition, as a New England State, the inclusion of Maine in the Interstate Compact will help to improve the nutrition landscape of the entire region. New Hampshire and Rhode Island currently have Compact Legislation pending and Vermont is expected to put forth a bill either this year or next.

The Dietitian Compact model proposed, was created through a collaborative agreement between the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the Department of Defense (DoD), and the Counsel of State Governments (CSG) National Center for Interstate Licensure Compacts. Due to the nature of the profession, military families are frequently asked to transfer locations to best serve the security needs of our country. As a result, 21% of military spouses face unemployment with 36% of spouses requiring some form of occupational license for employment. In 2020, as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 116-92, Section 575) the DoD entered into a cooperative agreement with CSG to provide grants to occupations to develop occupational licensure compacts.

Attainment of the registered dietitian (RD) credential requires completion of accredited education and supervised practice. Those with RD credentialing meet the standards for dietetic practice in all states. However, holding the RD credential is not required to participate in the Compact; it merely serves as a pathway to access the Compact because it captures a standard of licensure uniformity across all states.

Importantly, the Dietitian Licensure Compact does not restrict the market or competition. It simply sets minimum standards for participation. Moreover, it reduces administrative burden, increases efficiency, fosters cooperation among state licensure boards, expands access to nutrition care, and supports health care workforce development, especially in rural areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Rebecca MacLean MS, RD, CSO, LD

State Policy Representative, Maine Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics