

# Standard Process Nutrition of Southeast Michigan, Inc.

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Derek Webber  
Standard Process Nutrition of Southeast Michigan, Inc.  
46983 Five Mile Rd.  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
October 14, 2013

House Regulatory Reform Committee  
124 North Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chairman Crawford and Committee Members:

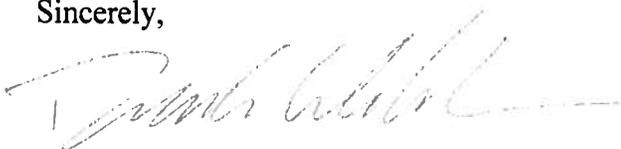
My name is Derek Webber and I am a small business owner in Southeast Michigan. My company represents the largest whole food vitamin manufacturer solely distributed to health care professionals; Standard Process of Palmyra, Wisconsin.

Since 1929 we have focused on educating and supplying health care professionals with quality nutritional supplements that they in turn use to assist their clients in all areas of health. In the 14 plus years that I have operated here, we have helped hundreds of thousands of people find alternate routes to healthy living. Many of these people would not have been helped if not for their Nutritionist or Pharmacist. Taking away their ability to recommend nutritional supplements would have very detrimental effects in three areas;

1. It literally limits the capability of qualified health care professionals from doing their job of helping people. It would take away their most trusted resource for rebuilding health and severely damage them fiscally. Many rely on the income of the dietary supplement sales.
2. It would directly damage my business. Looking at Certified Nutritional Counselors, Pharmacists and other health care professionals potentially impacted, in 2012 we sold over \$1,000,000.00 to this group in the Metro Detroit area. With an approximate market area of five million people, I would reason that the total impact on Michigan based supplement sales to health care professionals to exceed \$2,000,000.00 in 2013.
3. Most importantly, it would limit availability of dietary supplements to the public. So many people rely on their alternative health care provider for support. Please do not hurt the public by removing access to health.

I feel strongly that House Bill 4688 needs to pass.

Sincerely,



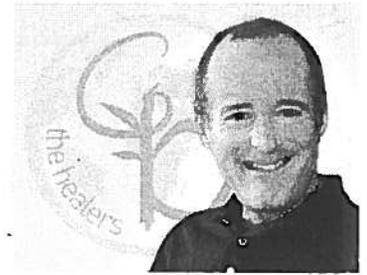
Derek Webber  
President



Standard Process  
VETERINARY FORMULAS™

MEDI HERB  
INNOVATIVE HERBAL SOLUTIONS

Authorized Independent Representative



Testimony for House Bill No. 4688  
October 15, 2013

My name is Dr. Craig "Sa'id" Oster, a 19-year survivor of ALS (also known as Lou Gehrig's disease). I am the Co-founder and Director of THE HEALERS campaign, a national holistic health and ALS scientific research campaign. We have over 50 renowned experts in integrative and alternative medicine, including many with advanced knowledge and evidence-based approaches to nutrition. ***Most people with Lou Gehrig's disease are dead within 3 to 5 years of diagnosis. I am alive and doing as well as I am, to a considerable extent, due to nutrition practitioners who are not Registered Dietitians.*** Some were Naturopathic Doctors, some were Chiropractors, and I have also received very important nutritional advice from those who have PhDs in Nutrition as well as Board Certified Clinical Nutritionists! ***I passionately support HB 4688 to repeal the dietetics licensure law (PA 333).***

***Registered Dietitians developed the ALS Association (ALSA) dietary guidelines, and these are still the standard of care in dietetics textbooks today. They include the very foods and beverages that are toxic to ALS patients and very unhealthy for the general population.*** They recommended the consumption of junk foods, and Ensure that is loaded with sugar and ingredients such as MSG, along with the consumption of unlimited chocolate-syrup ice cream milkshakes. The nutritional experts that I consulted were able to help me include organic foods, beverages and nutritional supplements that support my cellular functioning.

***I would likely be the typical ALS patient who dies within 10 years following diagnosis, if I had followed the advice of most Registered Dietitians.*** How can I trust an organization that partners with and receives significant money from Big Food companies like Pepsi, Coca-Cola, McDonalds, Hershey's and others which provide continuing education events for RDs? As a highly educated consumer, I deserve the right to receive professional nutritional consultations from the nutritional expert of my choice. The truth is that there is no logical reason to give a monopoly to RDs.

If you *become acquainted with all the facts of this issue*, you will see that the state of Michigan would be making a very positive decision to support HB 4688. I highly recommend that you read the first-rate investigative journalism reports by Michael Ellsberg in Forbes Magazine, "[Is The ADA Intentionally Using State Legislatures To Block Alternative Nutrition Providers? \(7/10/2012\)](#)" and "[Is the American Dietetic Association Attempting to Limit Market Competition in Nutrition Counseling? \(4/5/2012\)](#)".

***My firm conclusion is that House Bill No. 4688 will help Michigan's public health and economy; jobs will be preserved and patients like me will have access to nutrition practitioners of our choice.***

There is absolutely no evidence that PA 333 will protect the public. The evidence is overwhelmingly supportive of the assertion that the law established anti-competitive and monopolistic protection for one trade association, the Michigan Dietetic Association, which just last year changed its name to Michigan Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The public deserves the right to choose the nutrition practitioner of their choice, and those nutrition practitioners (non-dietitians) deserve the right to continue offering their services to the public.

Before closing my passionate plea that you vote on the side of truth and justice on this issue, I would like you to have a little more background on myself to put more of a personal face on my imploration. ***4 years ago I was***

***discharged from an extended stay in hospice after having required breathing machines to make it through the night. The nutritional advice I received from professionals who were not Registered Dietitians was a critical part of my recovery. Are you going to take that freedom away from the citizens who placed you in elected office?***

***I feel SO strongly about this issue that I developed THE HEALERS campaign and launched it on New Year's Day 2012. Some of my advisors include Dr Ann Louise Gittleman the multiple New York Times bestseller of nutrition books, Dr Robert Young the pioneering scientist who promotes a high alkaline dietary lifestyle with many documented cases of terminal cancer reversal, Coco Newton, MPH, RD, CCN a brilliant evidence-based nutritional expert who improved my health with nutritional consultation (Coco is on the Governor's Dietetics Advisory Board), Dr Brian Clement the Founder and Director of the world renowned Hippocrates Institute, Dr Gabriel Cousens who has written about healing diabetes with nutritional principles, and Dr Roger Newton, the man who co-discovered and lead the team that developed Lipitor, is sharing his knowledge in nutritional biochemistry to help me conduct dietary scientific research to advance the wellness of people with ALS. I hope that it doesn't become a crime for Dr Roger Newton to share his advanced knowledge in nutritional biochemistry, in our state of Michigan, to help people with ALS!***

Many other remarkable people are behind my cause, now our cause. For example, Dr Bruce Lipton the pioneering stem cell biologist and author of the bestseller "The Biology of Belief", Dr Hyla Cass a regular guest on the Dr Oz Show, and the legendary Dr Bernie Siegel, were all willing to put their huge names behind my ALS scientific research and educational campaign.

I am going to post my open letter to you in my THE HEALERS campaign website blog, to my 5,000 Facebook friends, to my 9,000 followers on Twitter, to my nearly 1,600 people on my Dr Craig Facebook Fan Page, to my 437 connections on LinkedIn including the Pro-Lansing Discussion Group, and I will be contacting the local media with my letter in attempt to leverage media coverage for the cause of truth and justice. ***I pray, my dear representatives, you choose to be part of the story of fighting for the freedom of choice regarding Michigan consumers and their consultations with highly qualified nutritional professionals, and not allowing a monopoly of one trade association (Michigan Dietetic Association).***

***In closing, I also would like you to know that my Mother, Bonnie Conn-Oster, would also likely be dead if she had been limited to receiving dietary advice from Registered Dietitians. In December of 2012, my Mother was diagnosed with terminal stage-4 aggressive lung cancer, which was soon crushing her heart, throat and spine. Doctors said it would be impossible for her to survive. All of her veins were popping out of her body and she was having frequent blood transfusions and could barely speak to me on the telephone for even one minute. What I am going to next share with you is not exclusively about the problem of a monopoly of the dietetics association, but it is very pertinent to that issue. The hospital cancer unit, like many, recommended consuming a high sugar diet. My Mother received dietary advice from other nutritional professionals who were not Registered Dietitians, and is now cancer free living independently following a high alkaline diet and juicing.***

***Please pass HB 4688 to repeal the dietetics licensure law. From the perspective of my Mother and I, this issue is of life and death importance. Furthermore, a repeal will protect the livelihood of highly qualified nutritional professionals who do not happen to be Registered Dietitians.***

With gratitude,  
Craig "Sa'id" Oster, PhD  
1621 Lake Drive, #9  
Haslett, Michigan 48840  
Co-founder & Director of THE HEALERS campaign

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

AGENDA: HB 4688 - Occupations; dietitians and nutritionists, individual licensing and regulation.

I am opposed to House Bill 4688, which would repeal the licensure standards for dietitians and nutritionists in Michigan.

I am currently the Clinical Nutrition Manager for both St. John Providence and Providence Park in the Detroit metro area. I left the multimillion dollar industry of "Health and Fitness" where sales and producing profit was the number one priority. These health/fitness facilities have Personal trainers who labeled themselves as "nutritionists" . They practice by selling fad diets, nutrition supplements, laxatives, water-diuretic pills and many other non-evidenced based practices in attempts to produce fast results so that they may remain productive. As a fitness manager for years, I was put in many situations where I would have to correct/prevent these "nutritionists" from possibly harming our cliental. It took a Cardiologist with Type 1 diabetes to walk into my facility and point out that I was NOT a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist, and as a medical professional he recommended I become one for the best training and better understanding of medical nutrition therapy. I pursued higher education and relied on our elite American education system and became a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist. It was a competitive program to get into, however, with hard work and commitment I was able to complete the program and now I understand what a responsibility it is to serve/protect our patients. Evidenced based practice is what we should provide to our vulnerable Michigan citizens. It is the law maker's responsibility to prevent possible harm from these non-evidenced based practices to our citizens. It is also crucial to provide highly trained medical professional, through our elite American standards to serve as Nutritionists/Registered Dietitians for our clinics, hospitals for the best patient care. Do not lower the standards for the education system and optimal clinical practice. Maintain only the highest standards to provide medical nutrition therapy to the most vulnerable individuals in our state and support of medical facilities.

I oppose House Bill 4688, not only for the citizens of Michigan who have a voice, but especially those who can not speak for themselves.

Mayssou n Hamade, MS, RDN  
Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist  
Clinical Nutrition Manager

Thank you for this time and consideration, this morning.

I would like to give you a personal story, which, over the years, I've learned sounds a lot like many personal stories out there. Seven years ago at age 34, I made a doctor's appointment and went to my appointment with a long list of symptoms that I was suffering from, including severe allergies, irritable bowels, dry skin, hair fallout and night sweats...just to name a few.

The MD who saw me had no explanation for what was occurring and sent me on my way with some allergy medicine. It was at that time that I decided to start reading books on nutrition. As I began to make changes in my diet and started to heal, I decided to go back to school to pursue a Master of Science degree in Nutrition, which I did achieve. Others came to me with their own issues and similar stories and, by educating them, they also began to heal themselves.

Seven years later I am now healthier than I was in my 20's and 30's and have a practice as a certified reflexologist. Nutrition often comes up from clients who have been diagnosed by their doctors with various diseases. Many times a client is simply wanting to lose weight. Over the years and through my coaching, I have helped a great number of clients to eat and live healthier, some have lost a considerable amount of weight and some have even reduced medications such as those prescribed for depression, cholesterol, diabetes and blood pressure (all with their doctor's guidance and approval, of course). In fact, some doctors have requested my business cards, because they were so pleased with their patient's results.

Although I am not a registered dietitian, I feel like I have made a huge impact in my local community as those educated clients in turn educate their own circle of friends and family. Mothers begin to cook healthier for their families and friends show others healthier choices by their own action. Although I can not diagnose, prescribe or treat, I can "coach" my clients to make lifelong changes that result in health and vitality for the rest of their lives. The changes they choose to make are hugely preventative and heal issues at the root of the cause of disease. I am certain that many of them would not even make it to the dietitian until they are in the late stages of disease requiring prescriptions and greater health care costs.

By hearing my story I hope that you will consider the fact that a Registered Dietitian is just one scope in the field of nutrition and that we need all of us working together as a team to move us to a healthier state and nation.

Thank you,

Carla Wysko

10320 Blackberry Lane

Haslett, MI 48840

(517)481-2448

Good morning. I'm Bethany Thayer. I am a registered dietitian nutritionist with a master's degree in exercise science. I live in Huntington Woods and work in Detroit at Henry Ford Health System and I am opposed to HB 4688 – the repeal of the Dietetics Nutrition Licensure Law.

As a media spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics I have worked with hundreds of writers, TV and radio personalities as they try to help their readers and listeners make sense of the information they are flooded with: what foods you should or shouldn't be eating, seemingly magical diets touted by celebrities and the latest additive or supplement guaranteeing instant results. It can be very confusing. And the wrong nutrition advice can lead to harmful and even deadly outcomes.

I have done a few interviews lately on coconut water. If you believe the current hype it's more hydrating than water. ~~Yet if someone with kidney deficiencies were to consume coconut water, the potassium~~

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content could stop their heart. When I do these interviews I can remind the interviewer of this important point.

High protein diets are another diet trend that can be misunderstood. I personally saw a patient who had spent considerable time in pain and then had multiple doctor visits because a non-RD was counseling him on a high protein diet to lose weight. Turns out he had gout – that was aggravated because of the high protein content of his diet.

Nutrition is a science that continues to develop with research coming out every day. Without the right training it is very easy to misinterpret much of this research. For example, one type of research takes a specific nutrient and then studies its effects in vitro. But we don't live in test tubes and we don't eat single nutrients – we eat food. Another type of research is observational studies. But they don't prove cause and effect they simply identify something that needs more research. Our training includes more than the ability to interpret research and understand the science, our training also includes taking the science and translating that into healthy diets that are individualized to your constituents taking all of their health concerns into consideration.

Non-RDs suggest that licensure eliminates choice – I would say licensure ensures credible, science-based, safe recommendations for your constituents.

October 15, 2013

To: Members of the House Committee on Regulatory Reform

From: Susanne Consiglio, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)

Title: Michigan Academy, Executive Director and Private Practice RDN

Good Morning. My name is Susanne Consiglio and I live in St. Clair Shores. I have worked as registered dietitian nutritionist for 32 years and have been in private practice for the last 25 years. I am part of the healthcare team working with several physicians who refer patients to me. I provide medical nutrition therapy for patients diagnosed with diabetes, cardiovascular disease and obesity. I am also the executive director for the Michigan Academy since 2005.

As executive director, one of my responsibilities includes tracking membership. As of September 19, 2013 there are 4400 dietitian/nutritionists in Michigan. The Michigan Academy has been accused of created a monopoly and this is simply not true. The profession isn't owned by the association. As you know, there are Michigan Anti-Trust laws that exclude and eliminate any type of monopoly.

Dietitians are a diverse group, in numerous practice areas and not just in hospital and food service. Registered Dietitian Nutritionists work in a variety of settings from prevention to chronic disease covering pediatrics, adults, seniors, community, education, outpatient/private practice and school nutrition to name a few.

I attended most of the Board of Nutrition and Dietetics licensure meetings in Lansing since 2008. The rules process was delayed year after year. I witnessed a board member attempting to rewrite the statute through the rules process. The Board voted in favor of the Administrative rules package with one vote against the proposed rules. The rules have since been posted. The Advisory Rules Committee (ARC) and their handling of input from practitioners and health care professions showed inequity. We were unsuccessful in obtaining a meeting with the ARC committee to present our findings of documentation of harm cases.

In 2006 during the consideration of this licensure legislation, why didn't other groups come forward then and address this issue in the work groups in both Chambers and have their credentials vetted in front of the House and Senate Health Policy Committees?

I am presently serving as a volunteer on Governor Snyder's 4 X 4 Michigan Health and Wellness Steering Committee. There is a wide range of organizations and companies involved. The Michigan Academy has been accused of partnering with McDonald's and soft drink industries. McDonald's and the Michigan Soft Drink Association are also partners of the 4 x 4 program. We share a common goal with the 4 X 4 program with the intention toward companies offering healthier food choices to their customers.

**I urge you to oppose House Bill 4688.**

Thank you.

**Additional Statements:**

- I would be happy to answer any questions following my testimony regarding this single effort to lower the qualifications for licensure of the health care profession
- Licensure of dietitians and nutritionists does not constitute a mandate to restrict the ability of others to provide basic nutrition advice. Health food and dietary supplements, a \$28 billion dollar industry as reported in 2011, will continue with record sales volume.

**Revenue Neutral**

- The administrative staff at the Board of Nutrition and Dietetics presented this issue of raising licensure fees which cover administrative costs. The Board discussion confirmed their understanding of the need for a revenue-neutral license fee. This increase was understood as necessary and would be an applicable policy for all health professions.
- It is not the purpose of national credentialing agencies to regulate individual states for public harm and safety just as this is not the purpose of national credentialing agencies who credential physicians, nurses, dentists, social workers and other groups.

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

AGENDA: HB 4688 - Occupations; dietitians and nutritionists, individual licensing and regulation.

I am opposed to House Bill 4688, which would repeal the licensure standards for dietitians and nutritionists in Michigan.

I currently am employed to provide medical nutrition therapy to the most vulnerable individuals in our state; pediatric and neonatal patients. Dietitians in this arena play a vital role on the health care team. By eliminating licensure standards, it frightens me that the parents or caregivers of these fragile little people could receive unreliable information, from less than qualified individuals who are "playing with nutrition". These families, especially those with the most complex medical cases are desperate to try anything to make their child better. These families should be able to count on safe and accurate information from licensed dietitians and nutritionists.

In addition to the standards set forth in the Michigan licensure statute, I am required to complete two separate comprehensive certification exams to demonstrate competency in these areas, which must be retaken every five years.

Repealing professional licensure of dietitians and nutritionists in Michigan would compromise the nutrition services offered to the public. I oppose House Bill 4688, not only for the citizens of Michigan who have a voice, but especially those who can not speak for themselves, these high risk infants and children.

Holly Guzman, RDN, CSP, CNSC  
Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist  
Board Certified Specialist in Pediatric Nutrition  
Certified Nutrition Support Clinician



## HENRY FORD HEALTH SYSTEM

**Internal Medicine**

Henry Ford Hospital  
2799 W. Grand Blvd., K-15  
Detroit, MI 48202  
(313) 916-9100 Office  
(313) 916-2837 Fax

Dear Representatives Crawford:

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I am writing to convey my opposition to House Bill 4688. As you are aware, House Bill 4688 seeks to repeal the licensure standards for dietitians in Michigan. As a senior staff member of the Henry Ford Medical Group in Internal Medicine, I am greatly concerned that this repeal would negatively impact the safety of Michigan citizens and specifically my patients.

In my practice, I work closely with many registered dietitians and find their knowledge and expertise in nutrition invaluable. In addition, I work closely with the Coordinator and Director of Clinical Nutrition Services and the Dietetic Internship Program to ensure a collaborative relationship between physicians and registered dietitians at Henry Ford Health System. Together, we chair the annual Henry Ford Health System Nutrition Symposium which highlights the necessity of someone with the training registered dietitians have and physicians working together to ensure healthy outcomes for our patients.

Registered dietitians are an invaluable part of the healthcare team and the licensure of dietitians and nutritionists is essential to establish minimum educational and experience criteria to care of patients. Repeal of this law will set Michigan back and put patients at risk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester Kobylak".

Lester Kobylak, MD, FACP  
Senior Staff  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Henry Ford Hospital  
2799 West Grand Boulevard  
Detroit, MI 48202

My name is Gail Solway and I'd like to tell you a little about myself so you will understand why I am speaking in favor of House Bill No. 4688.

I am a licensed pharmacist with a Masters degree in Human Nutrition, yet under the nutrition licensing law in Michigan, my nutrition credentials would not be recognized.

I have been a pharmacist in Michigan since graduating from the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy in 1980. Since before pharmacy school, I have been fascinated at how miraculous pharmaceuticals such as Penicillin, Insulin and the Polio Vaccine saved lives and completely changed the world in the mid 1900's. But over my pharmacy career I have watched the pharmaceutical industry evolve from mostly life saving medications to mostly "life style medications." By the time I graduated pharmacy school in 1980, the number 1 drug used in the U.S was the anti-anxiety drug Valium. By 1990, among the top 10 were the anti-depressants Prozac and Zoloft and also Ritalin, used for ADHD. By 2000, the pain killers Vicodin and Motrin were at the top of the chart. People were coming in to the hospital on over 20 medications at a time, with the side effect of one pharmaceutical being treated with another pharmaceutical, and so on, without looking at the root cause of the problem.

I began attending conferences all over the U. S. put on by reputable medical organizations looking beyond the use of synthetic pharmaceuticals to relieve symptoms, and instead looking at root causes of chronic diseases. Nutrition was clearly identified as a key factor. And yet in the hospital where I worked Food Service delivered trays of food but not nutrition; instead we relied on pills.

I left hospital pharmacy for a compounding pharmacy working with more plant based pharmaceuticals and began learning about specific nutrient depletions that happen, not only from pharmaceuticals, but from our diets, especially processed foods. And I went back to school.

I obtained a Master of Science in Nutrition. In Nutrition, the study of biochemistry focuses on using food and nutrients to *feed* biochemical pathways to build health rather than focusing on how to *block* biochemical pathways as pharmaceuticals do, almost always causing side effects creating more health problems.

It became clear to me that the right nutrients, obtained through food and sometimes supplements truly is medicine and can both prevent and reverse disease. In addition to my MS in Nutrition, I am a candidate to become one of the first certified practitioners in Michigan through the Institute of Functional Medicine. I have more training in nutrition and biochemistry than a bachelors level registered dietitian who is automatically licensed under the current law and yet I cannot get licensed with my training, nor call myself a nutritionist or counsel in nutrition.

I am completely passionate about helping people optimize their health through nutrition. If this repeal is not passed, not only would my professional aspirations be lost, but the public would not have the right to choose me, and so many others like me who are specially trained, to help improve chronic disease and health through nutrition and ultimately reduce our health care dollars.

Laura Freeland Kull, MS, RD  
Assistant Professor  
Director of the Nutrition and Dietetics Department  
Madonna University, Livonia MI

My profession is to train students to be members of the health care team. All didactic programs in dietetics are fully accredited programs that provide a unique and rigorous course of study. Our plan of study for the degree includes core science and nutrition courses along with three courses fully dedicated to clinical nutrition and Medical Nutrition Therapy. Throughout the entire curriculum we focus on Evidenced Based Practice. The students are taught to study the most current nutrition research to guide their nutrition practice because Medical Nutrition Therapy is not static. Our dietetic students are uniquely qualified to provide up to date nutrition therapies which is one reason why physicians continue to request dietitians as part of the health care team.

The dietetics practitioner is also taught about food science, food safety and food management. These courses in combination with clinical nutrition courses make our students exceptionally qualified to work in all fields of nutrition. Having said that, please do not mistake this well-rounded education as inferior in any way. The strong focus on evidence based clinical practice in the didactic program along with their supervised practice clinical rotations prepare these students for intensive clinical practice. Students are taught about medications, drug/nutrient interactions, nutrient therapies, and disease treatment and management integrated throughout their medical nutrition therapy courses. We also teach our students about prevention of chronic disease with a focus on well-being and healthy eating.

I am un-apologetic that my students are taught that food is the ultimate alternative medicine. Nutrient therapies are an important part of medical nutrition therapy but I do not teach my students to sell dietary supplements. We are training health care professionals not salespeople. I believe that a nutritionist prescribing and selling dietary supplements to their clients is a conflict of interest. It would be similar to having physicians prescribe medications to their patients and selling the medications for a profit in the lobby of their office. Clearly, this is an unethical use of their profession.

Finally, licensing is about protection of the public. Nutrition misinformation is a multi-billion dollar industry that often puts the public at risk. It is unfair to expect people to check the credentials of every practitioner they encounter. It should be government's role to set licensing standards and to prevent individuals who don't meet the standards from representing themselves as equivalent to those who do. Madonna University, along with seven other higher education institutions in this state (UM, WMU, CMU, EMU, MSU and Wayne State to name a few) provide degrees in dietetics. This repeal is undermining the legitimacy of these MI schools. The students graduating from these professional programs can choose to stay and work in MI or move to one of the 49 other states that provide legal recognition or license nutrition professionals. Please consider these students and schools when you consider this repeal.

**Name:** Jennifer Gawel, Eligible for the RD exam.

**Job Title:** Dietary Coordinator (Clinical Dietitian) for the first floor Center for Health & Rehabilitation at Burcham Hills Retirement Community in East Lansing, MI.

**Job Description:** Oversee the clinical nutrition of the first floor clients by completing assessments (reviewing medical chart), client interviews, progress notes, attending healthcare team care conferences, meetings of Quality of Care w/other healthcare professionals (such as Occupational Therapy, Social Work, Physicians & Nursing), facilitate nutrition education for clients, oversee diet orders including enteral feeding (tube feeding) & nutritional supplements, make any additional recommendations regarding the client's overall medical status, provide feedback regarding client's long term goals, or discussion of hospice/palliative care if needed, completing MDS documentation for the State of Michigan.

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Verification Statement for the Dietetics Program (indicating completion of the 4-year dietetic program), Completion of Michigan State University's 10-month dietetic internship program, which allows me to be eligible to take the Registered Dietitian Examination. I plan to begin coursework for my Master's degree in Human Nutrition this spring (January 2014).

**Why I became a Clinical Dietitian:** After completion of my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology I had a minor in nutrition from Central Michigan University. While I was at CMU, I worked part-time at a GNC and learned how easy it was for harmful and incorrect information to reach the general public. My knowledge of nutrition was not complete at this point, but I knew far more about the topic than my co-workers who had no formal training or knowledge of the subject, and were working there due to their ability to sell a product.

This was a turning point. I returned to school to pursue the dietetics program because I believed that people in our communities needed a Registered Dietitian with appropriate training and education to help guide them in a safe and healthy direction with their nutrition goals.

**Internship:** Every opportunity during my internship was a real applied experience of the medical and evidenced-based practice that I was taught through the four-year coursework of the dietetic program. I enjoy the clinical aspect of my job because I am able to apply new evidence-based research daily through nutrition intervention and help people in a significant way become healthier. I am also able to educate and explain the importance of the nutrition interventions to other healthcare professionals.

As a new healthcare professional working as a clinical dietitian in the industry I see and KNOW the value in the RD credential and need for licensure. Since I began my internship (applied experience) over one year ago, I have observed a plethora of similar harmful incidences that many of my fellow colleagues speak of today. This just proves the importance of our voices being heard on behalf of our communities and the people that we serve.

# Careers in Dietetics

## Becoming a Registered Dietitian or Registered Dietitian Nutritionist

### Educational and professional requirements

Registered Dietitians (RDs) or Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) are food and nutrition experts who have met the following criteria and earned the RD or RDN credential:

- **Completed a minimum of a bachelor's degree** at a U.S. regionally accredited university or college or foreign equivalent, and coursework through an Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD) or Coordinated Program in Dietetics (CP).
- **Complete 1200 hours of supervised practice through an ACEND accredited Dietetic Internship.** Coordinated Program in Dietetics or an Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (ISPP) offered through an ACEND accredited program.
- **Passed a national examination** administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). For more information regarding the examination, refer to CDR's website at [www.cdrnet.org](http://www.cdrnet.org). In order to maintain the credential, an RD or RDN must complete continuing professional educational requirements.

Some RDs or RDNs hold additional certifications in specialized areas of practice. These are awarded through CDR, the credentialing agency for the Academy, and/or through other medical and nutrition organizations. These certifications are recognized within the profession, but not required. Some of the certifications include pediatric or renal nutrition, sports dietetics, oncology, gerontological, nutrition support and diabetes education.

In addition, many states have regulatory laws (i.e. licensure) for food and nutrition practitioners. All states accept the RD or RDN credential for state licensure purposes.

### College course work

Dietetics students study a variety of subjects, including food and nutrition sciences, biochemistry, physiology, microbiology, anatomy, chemistry, foodservice systems, business, pharmacology, culinary arts, behavioral social sciences and communication.

### Employment opportunities

RDs or RDNs work in a wide variety of settings, including health care, business and industry, community/public health, education, research, government agencies and private practice. Many work environments, particularly those in medical and health-care settings, require that an individual be credentialed as an RD or RDN.

### RDs or RDNs work in:

- **Hospitals, clinics or other health-care facilities**, educating patients about nutrition and administering medical nutrition therapy as part of the health-care team. They may also manage the foodservice operations in these settings, or schools, day-care centers or correctional facilities, overseeing everything from food purchasing and preparation to managing staff.
- **Sports nutrition and corporate well ness programs**, educating clients about the connection between food, fitness and health.
- **Food and nutrition-related business and industries**, working in communications, consumer affairs, public relations, marketing, product development or consulting with chefs in restaurants and culinary schools.
- **Private practice**, working under contract with healthcare or food companies, or in their own business. RDs or RDNs work with foodservice or restaurant managers, food vendors and distributors, athletes, nursing home residents or company employees.
- **Community and public health settings**, teaching, monitoring and advising the public and helping improve quality of life through healthy eating habits.
- **Universities and medical centers**, teaching physician's assistants, nurses, dietetics students, dentists and others about the sophisticated science of food and nutrition.
- **Research areas** in food and pharmaceutical companies, universities and hospitals directing or conducting experiments to answer critical nutrition questions and find alternative foods or nutrition recommendations for the public.

# Careers in Dietetics

## Where to start if you already have a degree:

If you already have a bachelor's degree that is not in dietetics and are interested in becoming a registered dietitian, have your college transcript evaluated by the director of the ACEND accredited dietetic program you wish to attend.

The program director will review your previous academic preparation and identify courses that you will need to complete to meet the educational requirements for dietetic registration. It may be possible to complete the required dietetic coursework while enrolled in a graduate program. The dietetic program director can advise you of your options. Once the required coursework is completed, you are eligible to apply to the ACEND accredited supervised practice program.

## Salaries and job outlook

According to the *2011 Compensation & Benefits Survey of the Dietetics Profession*, the median annual income of all RDs or RDNs in the U.S. who have been working in the field for four years or less was \$52,000. As with any profession, salaries and fees vary by region of the country, employment settings, scope of responsibility and supply of RDs or RDNs. Salaries increase with year of experience and many RDs or RDNs, particularly those in business, management, education and research earn incomes above \$90,000.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of dietitians is expected to grow as fast as the average for all occupations through the year 2014 because of the increased emphasis on disease prevention, a growing and aging population and public interest in nutrition. Employment in hospitals is expected to show little change because of anticipated slow growth and reduced lengths of hospital stay. Faster growth, however, is anticipated in nursing homes, residential care facilities and physician clinics.

## Financial aid

There are many resources to help students pay for college. You may be able to obtain a grant or scholarship from a corporation, community or civic group, philanthropic or religious organization or directly from your chosen school or college. Federal grants and low-interest loans may also be available.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation offers scholarships to encourage eligible students to enter the field of dietetics. Student members of the Academy enrolled in their junior year in an ACEND accredited program may apply for a Foundation scholarship. Scholarships are also available for student members in ACEND accredited dietetic internships and graduate studies. Contact the Academy's Accreditation and Education Programs Team (800/877-1600, ext. 5400 or [education@eatright.org](mailto:education@eatright.org)) for scholarship information.

## Need more information?

Go to [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org) and click on "Become an RD/RDN/DTR" for more information. The site also lists the dietetics education programs accredited by ACEND at [www.eatright.org/acend](http://www.eatright.org/acend).

For other career guidance information, contact the Accreditation and Education Programs Team.

## Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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The **Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics** is the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. The Academy is committed to improving the nation's health and advancing the profession of dietetics through research, education and advocacy.

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October 15, 2013

To: Members of the House Committee on Regulatory Reform

From: Lynn Spalding, RDN, CSG

Good morning and thank you for hearing my statement. My name is Lynn Spalding and I live in Perry. I have worked for over 30 years as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, primarily serving one of our most vulnerable populations, the elderly. I am the first Board Certified Specialist in Gerontological Nutrition in the state of Michigan. I am also an entrepreneur. In 1999, I began consulting to long-term care and assisted living facilities. I appreciate the opportunity to develop and create a business. However, I do not believe the responsibility to protect the public should be overshadowed by the ability to conduct business without consequence for harm.

I have worked from the Upper Peninsula to the inner city of Detroit and have dealt with the problems of nutrition misinformation with many of our citizens on a regular basis. I would like to illustrate my point with three recent examples:

I have a client who complains of shortness of breath after eating ice cream. He received advice from someone not specifically trained in nutrition care that it was likely due to the carbohydrate in the diet "squeezing" the oxygen out of his lungs. He underwent extensive testing by a pulmonologist who determined that his lung function was normal. Being advised to just "avoid carbohydrates" can result in a diet low in essential nutrients impacting heart health and prevention of chronic disease. In a case such as this, a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist can interpret scientific evidence and translate it into an appropriate healthy meal plan.

In another example, a physician ordered a high protein diet for a client. This client received advice on selecting "high protein vegetables" which had little or no protein. She also had complicating diagnoses of liver disease and altered kidney function. These complications need to be evaluated by a professional trained in evidence-based clinical nutrition. Without guidance from a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, this client may have made food choices that hindered recovery and caused additional damage to major organs.

My last example involves the daughter of a nursing home resident with late-stage Alzheimer's disease, who approached me about a supplement recommended by a friend. He encouraged her to purchase these for her mother and signed his letter, "your guardian angel". There is no scientific evidence of beneficial use in late stage Alzheimer's disease. False hope for a potentially fatal disease is cruel and a waste of money.

I attended Michigan State University and have had the pleasure of mentoring many students from Michigan State, Wayne State, Madonna, Central, Eastern and Western Michigan. As you are well aware, the economic recession has forced many talented young people to seek employment in other states. This is very personal for me, as I have a son that moved to Phoenix, AZ for employment after

graduating from Grand Valley State. It would be unfortunate if the next generation of dietitian nutritionists had to look for employment outside of Michigan because jobs were given to unqualified persons.

In closing, I believe the citizens of Michigan would be best served by continuing to license dietitian nutritionists and clearly defining a scope of practice. There are many important members of an effective healthcare team. Licensure with healthcare professionals defines the scope of practice; such as the difference between Licensed Registered Dietitian Nutritionists and other practitioners; Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses; Dentists, Dental Hygienists, and Dental Assistants. With a clearly defined scope of practice, entrepreneurs can utilize it in establishing nutrition care business practices that ALSO protect the public.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lynn Spalding, RDN, CSG

Food and Nutrition Consultant  
Board Certified Specialist in Gerontological Nutrition  
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October 15, 2013

Representative Hugh D. Crawford  
S0877 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014 Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Hugh D. Crawford,

My name is Karen Jackson Holzhauer, RD and I'm here today as a former President of the Michigan Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. I earned a Masters degree in Food and Nutrition from Wayne State University as approved by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education and have a second Masters in Medical Anthropology with a certificate in Gerontology. I'm currently employed as a Nutritionist for an Area Agency on Aging 1-B in Michigan and serve on the board of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) in Washington DC. On behalf of The Michigan Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, I am here to express my opposition to House Bill 4688, which would repeal the licensure standards for dietitians and nutritionists in Michigan.

As a Registered Dietitian since 1976, I served on one of the first total parenteral nutrition (tpn) care teams in Michigan at St Joseph Mercy Hospital, Detroit, that saved the lives of individuals who were unable to absorb food due to suffering an illness or injury. Under the leadership of a physician and in partnership with pharmacists and nurses we turned tragedy into successful treatment.

I can speak, in detail, of the experiences I have had with patients and in some case friends who have fallen victim to nutrition counseling from unqualified individuals. Today I would like to share an example of an individual who discontinued treatment for neuropathy during his remission from bone cancer; and began buying and selling supplements that he attributed to helping him remain cancer free. The Healthy Immune System sales pitch from a local realtor read "whole food nutrition in a capsule." At \$900 per year, he was lead to believe that he was consuming all of the whole grains, fruits and vegetables he needed in a capsule. He even received free chewable gummies for his child for up to three years. After his cancer returned, the road trips to sell him as a cancer free person disappeared. In this case his substitution of pills for food may have further contributed to a delay in conventional treatment with money spent on products rather than the foods and medications he had been consuming. This individual who was ingesting large doses of concentrated supplements was also a school coach. In this highly trusted position in the community, he was initially sought after for his sphere of influence and contacts. Just as we saw steroids creep into the sports culture of our youth during the 80's, thirty years later we have now grown an industry of sports professionals who have had their health spin out of control. Teams that engage RD win at the game of life and can win big in their sport.

The Detroit Red Wings definitely have an edge, a secret ingredient, they employee is a dietitian from Ann Arbor who is also part of the US Olympic training team. It's time for Michigan to capitalize on one of the experts that any resident would want to have on their team, a dietitian or nutritionist. Just say no to de-regulation by saying yes to keeping the licensed dietitian and nutritionist on Michigan's team. Let's make Michigan's health a top priority and keep the dietitian and nutritionist under the Michigan

licensure statute, as the qualified individual who is competent and well trained to treat chronic illness and disease.

While the Food and Drug Administration regulates and safeguards the health of our nation to the degree humanly possible, the State of Michigan is charged with protecting the health and safety of our residents to the degree humanly possible. Medical nutrition therapy is more than nutrition education. Dietitians/nutritionists play a role in complex medical cases which carry significant risk that require reliable skill and trusted competency in delivering care as part of the health care team. Just as Michiganders should be able to count on ethical, effective and safe medical services from licensed physicians, drug prescriptions from licensed pharmacists and oral care from licensed dentists, our citizens have the right to receive safe and effective nutrition services from licensed dietitians. Under the licensure umbrella a minimum standard of education, training and competency is defined in order to practice as a licensed dietetic practitioner. In other words, it ensures an individual proficient in the science and art of nutrition is providing services in the right place at the right time and is deemed under Michigan law to have the right licensure for the job.

What price can you place on our resident's safety and well being? Whether you are a parent, a grand - parent, a spouse, the partner or dear friend of some one you care for, at some time the services of a qualified dietitian or nutritionist will be needed. In health care and community settings, it is critical that individuals who provide medical nutrition therapy be able to treat individuals with a variety of complex conditions, such as cancer, gastrointestinal surgery, diabetes kidney disease, failure to thrive in a new born, life threatening allergies, heart disease and many others.

As a dietitian employed in hospital administration for 20 years, one of my most important tasks was in choosing our staff. While I worked as Corporate Director of Nutrition Services for the Oakwood Health Care system in Dearborn Michigan, I relied heavily on the integrity that is signified by professional licensure standards. Dietitian/nutritionist licensure fits within the Michigan health care team and is entirely consistent with federal law and also with currently established federal regulations.

In Michigan professional licensure of health care providers is essential to ensuring the health and safety of the public. Dietetics licensure is no exception. It is critical that qualified practitioners, including dietitians, provide safe care and licensure is the necessary component to ensuring our resident's are protected.

Sincerely,

Karen Jackson-Holzhauser, RD, FADA  
Detroit, Michigan 48207

## **Carl Christoph RD, JD**

Carl Christoph has been a Registered Dietitian since 1975. Mr. Christoph has been a member of the State Bar of Michigan since 1988. Mr. Christoph served on the Michigan Board of Nutrition and Dietetics from 2008 until 2012.

Testimony House Regulatory Reform Committee  
October 15, 2013

The State of Michigan is charged with protecting the health and safety of citizens of our state. Licensure of dietitians and nutritionists provides consumers with reasonable assurance that the licensed individual is competent to provide safe and effective nutrition services. It establishes a minimum standard of education, training and competency in order to practice. In other words, it ensures the expert or right person for the job.

In health care and community settings, it is critical that individuals who provide medical nutrition therapy be able to treat individuals with a variety of complex conditions, such as cancer, gastrointestinal surgery, kidney disease and many others. Medical nutrition therapy is more than nutrition education. Dietitians/nutritionists play a role in complex medical cases which carry significant risk that require reliable skill and trusted competency in delivering care as part of the health care team. The citizens of Michigan should be able to count on ethical, effective and safe medical services from licensed physicians, drug prescriptions from licensed pharmacists and oral care from licensed dentists, our citizens have the right to receive safe and effective nutrition services from licensed dietitian nutritionists.

As you may know, I served on the Board of Dietetics and Nutrition for four years and I am also a lawyer and listened to the arguments to lower the educational standards and reduce the qualifications for licensure under this law. If you have any questions about why the rule drafting process bogged down, I would be happy to describe some of those meetings to you and what I see as one person trying to rewrite the law through the Administrative Rules process.

In Michigan professional licensure of health care providers is essential to ensuring the health and safety of the public. Dietetics licensure is no exception. It is critical that qualified practitioners, including dietitians, provide safe care and licensure is the necessary component to ensuring our residents are protected.

Claire Hammer, RD, CDE  
Bronson Battle Creek  
Battle Creek, MI

I oppose HB 4688.

There is nothing wrong with Michigan consumers seeking the advice of those with nutrition backgrounds. However, the line is drawn when nutrition advice becomes Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT), the therapeutic approach to treating chronic or acute medical conditions and their symptoms through a specific diet or other nutritional intervention. Once a medical condition is evident, the danger posed by an unqualified provision of Medical Nutrition Therapy cannot be understated. RD/N's have a thorough understanding of biology, chemistry, biochemistry, molecular biology and microbiology as it relates to the disease state and its nutritional treatment. Licensure ensures these individuals meet a rigorous set of standards and are qualified to give such advice.

A case in point: A few years ago I worked with a patient who was admitted to the Critical Care Unit with a blood sugar over 1,000 (10 times greater than normal). She had been advised by a "friend" selling supplements to stop her insulin as treatment for her diabetes and take cinnamon supplements instead. She did survive but after a very traumatic experience not to mention the health care costs and probable long term issues she will have.

**Licensure of dietitians and nutritionists in Michigan was supported in the Legislature to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public by identifying the most competent, qualified and trained practitioners in the field of dietetic and nutrition services.** Through licensure the public can identify and know when the information being given by "experts" is based on science and is being given by individuals with appropriate education and experience, especially as it pertains to individuals who have medical conditions, which could be adversely affected by improper nutrition counseling.

## Testimony HB 4688: Bonnie Oster

I am a Stage 4 lung cancer survivor since January 2013. I was told that I was terminal and that I had a year to live. I couldn't walk, sit up or do anything, and I was told that I needed to be put in a nursing home. While I was in the hospital and throughout my chemotherapy, the dietitians told me to drink Ensure, to eat sugary and other high calorie foods to keep weight on. I would tell the dietitians that my son told me that sugar feeds cancer, and that I needed to make my body alkaline so that the cancer wouldn't grow. They kind of laughed at me like they knew what was best because they worked in a cancer center. Because I followed a mostly organic and raw foods diet with high quality nutritional supplements, my tumors shrunk till they disappeared over 9 months. The radiologist couldn't believe it, telling me that he hadn't seen this dramatic an improvement before.

My son, Craig Oster, is a 19 year survivor of Lou Gerhig's Disease also known as ALS, with most people living only 3-5 years after diagnosis. If he had followed the dietary advice that the dietitian's gave him, he likely would not be alive today. Through the ALS Association, he was told to eat the same kind of high calorie junk foods as I was. Craig consulted many nutrition practitioners from all over the world for himself and for me. He can't lift his arms to feed himself, but he can swallow liquids and doesn't have to be on a tube feeding. His diet is blended organic raw fruits and vegetables, protein powders and healthy fats. Not one bit of sugar or any junk food ever! He takes many nutritional supplements to support his cellular metabolism and immune system. He rarely gets sick.

Craig would be here with me today, except his morning care routine and transportation makes it difficult. I am speaking for the 2 of us.

Please pass House Bill 4688. Craig and I are alive today because we've had the freedom to choose our nutritionists and other alternative health care practitioners. What if it was you or somebody else in your family suffering from an illness? Wouldn't you want a choice?

Testimony of Patricia Willard, RDN  
10/15/13

Opposition to House Bill 4688

Thank you for the opportunity to address this Committee today. I would like to speak to you briefly about Medical Nutrition Therapy for our citizens of Michigan.

Medical Nutrition Therapy, abbreviated as MNT is described as the role of nutrition in the prevention and treatment of chronic disease such as diabetes, heart disease, and kidney disease. It involves the nutritional care of critically ill patients, including techniques of nutrition support.

To be eligible for these services a patient with Medicare must have the diagnosis of diabetes, kidney disease, kidney transplant within the last 3 years, or be referred by their Medical Provider. Medicare Part B covers Medical Nutrition Therapy services which are most often provided by a Registered Dietitian.

I don't want to spend a lot of my time addressing federal government regulations, but let me say that the regulations have recognized the propriety of incorporating the Registered Dietitian in Medicare Part B. The American Medical Association as well as national diabetes and kidney associations comprehend the importance and value of the Registered Dietitian when they refer their critically ill patients for MNT.

In light of my brief review of the importance of having a qualified, educated and trained professional to provide safe and science based nutritional education, I would like to share a recent experience that I had which demonstrates the direct opposite.

Several months ago I was speaking to an individual who is employed at an exercise facility. The individual works as a Fitness Trainer. His responsibilities include providing assistance to his customers in planning and executing exercise routines. Knowing my credentials as a Registered Dietitian, the Fitness Trainer shared his contribution of providing nutrition instruction to his customers for the purpose of health and weight loss. The Paleolithic Diet. Also referred to as the Paleo Diet, the Caveman Diet, the Stone Age Diet, and the Hunter-gatherer Diet - it is a nutrition plan based on the diet of our ancestors during a time period that ended approximately 10,000 years ago. I asked the Trainer if he realized that this diet eliminated several food groups which resulted in an intake deficient in key nutrients, several being calcium and fiber. He was not aware of this. I went on to inform this individual of the liability of providing nutrition related recommendations to his customers and the possibility of causing harm to a customer with existing medical concerns. After which, I suggested that in the future that he refer his customers to a Registered Dietitian for nutrition counseling.

Nutrition is an integrative science with the overall objective of improving the health and well-being of individuals and groups. Nutritional inquiry encompasses not only the roles of the

electrons, atoms, molecules, genes, cells, organs, and complex organisms in biological life processes but also the links between life science and health, behavior, education, population, culture, and economics.

When life finds you or your loved ones with a life-threatening illness or chronic condition which requires specific and factual nutritional intervention, seek out the expertise that that will provide you with the greatest opportunity for a successful outcome. The expert health educator will be the qualified, educated and trained professional – the Registered Dietitian.

I join my hundreds of Michigan colleagues in urging you to allow the licensure for Dietitians and Nutritionists for the health and welfare of our citizens. Thank you for your time.

Patricia Willard, RDN  
Michigan Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Heather Dover, RDN

I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) and President of the Lansing Dietetic Association. I live in the 68<sup>th</sup> Michigan House district in Lansing, and I am a Research Technologist II at Michigan State University. In my research role, I currently manage a laboratory studying the effects of food additives on the immune system. My research and the research of other RDNs inform and advance the practice of nutrition therapy. While the science of nutrition and dietetics is relatively young compared to other medical sciences, it is science-based, therefore, it is evidence-based. This scientific basis ensures that nutrition information can be communicated confidently in a responsible manner.

Because I work at a university, I am constantly surrounded by the next generation of bright and talented young people. New federal regulations stipulate health care providers must be licensed professionals in order to be reimbursed for their services. Without licensure, I fear all of this talent will move to the other 41 states that do have licensure, thereby contributing to the brain drain that plagues our state.

To become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist requires rigorous college-level coursework leading to a bachelor's degree, a long rotational training experience, and passing a difficult exam. Once in the field, those skills must be updated and enhanced through continuing education. This specific and comprehensive education is not markedly different from the training that other health professionals such as doctors, nurses, and pharmacists must complete. After such an investment, why risk losing these skilled workers?

In addition, doctors, nurses, and pharmacists are required to be licensed in order to practice their professions in the state of Michigan. Similarly, licensure for dietitian nutritionists is a critical component in maintaining standards of practice that the people of Michigan deserve. Would you trust your health needs to an unlicensed doctor, nurse or pharmacist?

Dietitian nutritionists don't take up this profession to make lots of money. I became an RDN, because I enjoy the science of food and nutrition. Collectively, we do it, because we care about people and want to help them! Nevertheless, we strive to maintain high standards within a scientific framework and to abide by a Code of Professional Ethics to give the public confidence in the information they receive. Licensure ensures that the public can identify qualified professionals who can give them that accurate information.

October 14, 2013

Anne DeVitto, MS, RD, CSP  
Sparrow Health System

Statement for October 15<sup>th</sup> Licensure Hearing for Bill HB 4688

Good Morning, I am Anne DeVitto, MS, RD, CSP and I am from Mason, MI. I am proud to provide Medical Nutrition Therapy for Michigan's most vulnerable citizens – preterm infants in the Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Sparrow Hospital – the smallest one weighing 14 ounces at birth – 2 ounces more than a can of soda- who by the way is now 15 months old and doing very well. I, also, provide Medical Nutrition Therapy to children and their families for a variety of nutrition issues from Allergies – Diabetes- Failure to Thrive to Obesity. As a Certified Pediatric Specialist, I am uniquely qualified to act as the bridge between the Science of Nutrition and the Art of Eating. Have I seen harm done to the children that I see as a result of inappropriate nutrition advice – absolutely – will this harm make the news – most likely not. It is not news worthy when a family is in chaos because their slightly overweight adolescent child was put on the Paleo (caveman) diet for weight loss – but there was certainly harm done. The child's food intake was so limited that he was truly hungry during a time when his hormones were driving him to eat. It was too stressful for him to eat with the family because his food was different. His personality changed, he was sullen. The family wanted their child back and sought out a nutrition expert - the Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist.

To: Members of the Michigan House Regulatory Reform Committee  
& Senate Reform Committee

From: Kristen Nonahal, RD  
Nephrology Dietitian, Henry Ford Health System

Date: October 15, 2013

Re: Opposition of HB4688

I am here today to OPPOSE HB4688. I have been a registered dietitian for 28 years and for the past 13 years have specialized in Nephrology. The scope of my practice has covered Chronic Kidney Disease(CKD) to Transplant to Dialysis. I have also worked in Liver Transplant.

Throughout the years I have witnessed patients whose health has been compromised by individuals who are not educated and trained in the field of Dietetics. This includes the individual with Chronic Kidney Disease who on the advice of an untrained "Nutritionist" ingests a high protein diet or nutritional supplement in order to lose weight. Such a practice is contraindicated in relation to the health of their kidneys and can actually damage them even further.

I have also seen patients presented before the Liver Transplant Selection Committee who were once healthy individuals. On the misguided advice of, once again, an untrained "Nutritionist" they have taken an herbal weight loss supplement and are now facing End Stage Liver Disease and transplant.

So lets ask ourselves the question again; "Will the public be harmed by not licensing Dietitians?" My answer to you is YES.

Many people are told by their health care practitioners, “You need to get your numbers under control, and to do that, you need to lose weight!”

In fact this is the basis of Michigan’s 4x4 Wellness Plan—know your numbers and get them under control. But many health practitioners are themselves stymied about helping their patients do so. Sound nutrition is the *why* part of the equation.

Through classes and workshops, I plan to teach practitioners and their referred patients *why* they should cook from scratch at home and *how* they can create 21 wholesome and economical meals entirely from scratch every week.

I have enrolled in the Institute for Integrative Nutrition to become a certified health coach because it will be a huge benefit to my business and my clients to be able to offer health coaching as part of my services – to teach people not just the *how* but the *why* to cook at home.

People need trained individuals who can talk to them about their health goals and *show* them how to reach them. This is both a great need and a great source of job creation.

The opportunity here is for us to look at what’s been laid on our table – the health issues, the costs of increasing poor health, and Michigan’s desperate need for job creation – and to say, *Everyone* who has training in nutrition, *everyone* who wants to make a difference in the health and lives of our citizens needs to be welcome at this table.

Let’s find a way to *all* work in a responsible and collaborative way to meet this need.

The current licensing law is an impediment not just to the creation and growth of businesses such as mine but to Michigan moving forward. I urge you to support the repeal of this law.

Thank you.

Good Morning. My name is Judy Stone. I 'm the Executive Director of Michigan Nutrition Association and a nutritionist for 18 years. MNA represents professionals, businesses, educators, and consumers and we appreciate the opportunity to speak today in favor of repeal.

The current law is tailored to the training model of one private association-- registered dietitians-- and forces all other practitioners regardless of training background, to conform to standards they set or be put out of business. This law was crafted with no input from the broader nutrition community. All RDs would be automatically licensed under this law. Zero non-RDs would automatically qualify for licensure. RDs say it is needed to protect the public from harm caused by uneducated practitioners, but that harm is theoretical, and based on anecdotes, and often personal opinions collected by those wanting the regulation. The RDs have raised concern by suggesting, "anyone who has taken a weekend course can call themselves a nutritionist".

This is using dynamite instead of a fly swatter to kill a mosquito-sized problem. The weekend nutritionist while a colorful image obscures the fact that many credentialed nutrition practitioners have more training than entry level dietitians, who would be licensed simply because they have this private credential. It ignores the fact that Michiganders already utilize a growing category of preventive nutrition coaching services, delivered at less cost by those trained by quality, private, vocational programs. These small business people in a rapidly expanding occupation, are neither weekend nutritionists nor delivering the same service as dietitians or highly credentialed nutritionists, yet the current law would make what they do illegal as soon as they customized food recommendations to an individual, rather than hand someone a preprinted food list or menu.

No regulation will stop the exercise of first amendment rights of people who want to offer educated or even uneducated opinions about nutrition. Nor will it stop individuals who want to seek those opinions. It's easy to suggest one's competitors are unqualified but no law that severely curtails rights as the current licensing law does should be based on such unexamined claims.

MI only has 27.5 dietitians per 100,000 according to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The majority of them work in places you have to already be pretty sick to gain access to. Dietetics services are costly, largely not covered by insurance and for many the registered dietitian is simply not the nutrition care provider they choose to see. This stack here is close to 1000 letters from such Michiganders expressing that sentiment.

The majority of states have either no regulation for nutrition or laws that license or certify some, but do not make it illegal for others to give nutrition advice. 14 out of 14 attempts in other states to pass similarly restrictive laws have failed in the past two years. The controversy here should not be focused on the repeal; the controversy is the 2006 law that was crafted by one association with the rest of the professional nutrition community not invited to the table. Now we are faced with many unintended negative consequences.

We respectfully request your support for the repeal bill before you.

Dear Representatives,

Let me introduce myself. My name is Kate Share and I'm a nutritionist working in Ypsilanti Michigan. I work with high risk teenagers in the oldest and largest nonprofit teen health center in the state, The Corner Health Center. I have a master's degree in human nutrition from University of Michigan (1992). I've worked passionately to earn my specialization in adolescent and maternal-child nutrition. I serve high risk teens because I love empowering youth to make healthy choices for themselves.

I've worked with the Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) as a nutritionist and coordinator for twenty years. MIHP is funded by Medicaid and administered by the Michigan Department of Community Health. If you do not vote yes on HB4688 to repeal PA333 and eliminate the DNLB, then I will lose my job. If you already support repeal, then thank you for representing me! You do not have to read further, unless you need further clarification regarding the problems with PA333.

If you do not support repeal at this point, then please hear my case. This law would not license master's trained nutritionists, only Registered Dietitians. That is because Registered Dietitians are the largest group of nutritionists in the state, who have lobbied extensively to be the only licensed nutrition professional, not because they are exclusively the best trained nutritionists. Before you fire me, please make sure that you can replace me. Last time I checked, there were no Registered Dietitians standing in line for my 20 hour per week, no benefits job with a salary far below private practice or hospital rates.

Also, please make sure that my replacement has been fighting at least twenty years to bring down Michigan's high infant morbidity and mortality rates, like I have. Did you know that African American babies in Michigan, regardless of socioeconomic status, are 3 times more likely to die in the first year than Caucasian babies? I serve some of the poorest, most at-risk young mothers and infants in the state. And I feel like I make a difference. I have also provided nutrition education and counseling to high risk patients with HIV/AIDs and highly complex patients with eating disorders. These are not areas of nutrition that are not usually covered in an RD program.

Please make sure that my replacement is as well-trained as I am. I have a master's degree in human nutrition from U of M. I hope she or he chose a master's in nutrition over an RD program, like I did, because in 1990, my program was superior in clinical nutrition training for outpatient nutrition compared to an

RD program (whose curriculum predominantly focused on food service and dietary plans for hospital patients).

Finally, before you fire me, please make sure you have jobs for the hundreds of alternately but equally-trained nutritionists like me. Because, after all, the last thing Michigan needs are more unemployed professionals. Michigan needs more trained nutritionists to serve poor, nutritionally at-risk citizens, not less! Michigan ranks among the top five most obese states in America. Across the country, legislators are voting more often for fair competition among nutrition professionals. Are you sure you have enough properly trained, motivated replacements? I'm not. So, please represent me by voting yes on HB 4688 to repeal PA333 Dietetics/Nutrition Regulation Act. From where I'm sitting, you still need me!

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

*Kate Jones Share*

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