

Dear Honorable Representative:

I am a Health Care Practitioner and the Dietician's Licensing Bill has made it illegal for me to say many of the things I am trained in to support the health of my clients. Please, I respectfully urge you to support H.B. 4688, a bill to repeal the Dietetics Board. H.B. 4688 will once again allow me to do my job in giving people healthful information that does them no harm.

H.B. 4688 would restore freedom of speech on nutrition information and increase consumer options in natural health care. Current law limits freedom of speech on nutrition information and decreases and jeopardizes consumer options in natural health care by providing an exclusive scope of practice to Dietitians licensed under the act.

Since the Michigan Board of Dietetics was established, only a select group of practitioners with a particular education can become licensed to provide nutrition care services. H.B. 4688 would return nutrition information to the public domain.

Current state law unnecessarily complicates and threatens the rights of unlicensed health care practitioners and Michigan citizens to access services and information on nutrition. Nutrients and food are substances that our country has always deemed "generally regarded as safe" and consumers have access to these products freely, and the government has the burden of showing harm before they restrict access to foods and nutrients, including dietary supplements. Federal product law protects our access to these substances and information about them.

**H.B. 4688 would enhance employment opportunities and have broad positive economic and health impacts in Michigan.** For example, when Michigan's Office of Regulatory Reinvention (ORR) recently recommended that the occupation of Dietetics and Nutrition be deregulated and the Dietetics and Nutrition Licensing Board be eliminated, the ORR's stated rationale for its recommendation was that, **"The regulation of dietitians and nutritionists does not provide a clear public health and safety benefit."** The recommendations encourage job creation and will increase competition in the affected occupations, thereby lowering costs for consumers. The MI ORR released its recommendations in a report entitled "Recommendations Regarding Occupational Licensing" (Feb. 2012) and they are the result of a regulatory review process that began when the Occupational Licensing Advisory Rules Committee met for the first time on August 18, 2011.

You can protect my right to access nutrition-care services from unlicensed practitioners (such as myself) and other trained professionals by supporting H.B. 4688. We are trained in approaches that have been time tested and validated. People are seeking natural solutions. Let's create Michigan as a safe haven for natural health and those who seek it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please let me know how you vote. [Mary@BornForHealth.com](mailto:Mary@BornForHealth.com)