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Title: Licensure of Nutritionists and Dietitians  
Introduced by: Michael Moentmann, for the Medical Student Section  
Original Author: Michael Moentmann  
Referred To:  
House Action:

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Whereas, Michigan is one of three states which has no formal licensing requirements or title protections for nutritionists and dietitians, and

Whereas, licensure assures health insurance companies, state, and federal governments that practitioners who are being reimbursed for nutrition care services meet standards of professional competence, and

Whereas, without proper training, individuals can present fringe nutritional practices as evidence-based, or misinterpret current nutritional research and misapply the findings, and

Whereas, without formal licensing, individuals who claim to have expertise in nutrition cannot be prevented from making misleading claims regarding nutrition supplements or weight loss plans that could be contraindicated with certain medical conditions, and

Whereas, registered dietitians have formal professional, educational, and ethical standards, including continuing professional education, and

Whereas, in previous legislation, licensing requirements and regulation did not apply to business people involved in the distribution of health-related products, so long as they did not identify themselves by the title of "dietitian" or "nutritionist," and

Whereas, MSMS maintains positions on licensing for other health-related fields, supporting the licensure and definition of scope of practice for legitimate professionals such as genetic counselors and nurse anesthetists, while opposing licensure for unproven health practitioners such as naturopaths; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS supports formal educational requirements and subsequent licensure of dietitians and nutritionists.

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: None

**Relevant MSMS Policy:****Licensure and Reimbursement for Certified Genetic Counselors**

MSMS supports the licensure of certified genetic counselors. (Res36-16)

**Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants**

MSMS supports the licensure of "certified anesthesiologist assistants" (CAA), who would practice anesthesiology under the supervision of an anesthesiologist, consistent with other MSMS policy relative to scope of practice. (Board-Oct17)

**Licensure of Naturopaths**

MSMS opposes the use of licensing as a pathway for expanding the scope of practice of persons practicing naturopathic medicine. (Board-July2018)

**Health Profession Boards Need to Protect Patients**

MSMS opposes efforts by licensing boards of non physicians to establish their own scope of practice, and expansion in non-physicians scope of practice may only occur with approval of the Boards of Medicine, the respective non-physician licensing board, and the Legislature. (Res20-12)

**Oppose Scope of Practice Expansion for Allied Health Care Professionals**

MSMS opposes scope of practice changes for non-physician health care professionals that are not supported by their level of education and training. (Res89-16) - Amended (Res59-18)

**Relevant AMA Policy:**

None

**Sources:**

1. Licensure and Professional Regulation of Dietitians, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 2020. online <https://www.eatrightpro.org/advocacy/licensure/professional-regulation-of-dietitians#state>
2. House Bill 4688 committee report; Repeal licensure of dietitians & nutritionists. Michigan State Government, 2014. online <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2013-2014/billanalysis/House/pdf/2013-HLA-4688-AC9131F3.pdf>
3. Noland D, Raj S. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: Revised 2019 Standards of Practice and Standards of Professional Performance for Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (Competent, Proficient, and Expert) in Nutrition in Integrative and Functional Medicine. J Acad Nutr Diet. 2019;119(6):1019-1036.e47. doi:10.1016/j.jand.2019.02.010