**Use the templates below to draft correspondence to your** [**legislators**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find) **about your concerns regarding the** [**SF 2385 bill**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=90&ba=SF%202385) **to eliminate dietetics licensure and the Board of Dietetics in Iowa.**

**There are two template drafts below- one to use with your Senator and one with your House Representative. Please double-check check you are copying the correct one in your advocacy.**

**Please include personalized information about the uniquely specialized practice of dietetics and MNT. Where possible, restate talking points in your own words, emphasizing aspects that impact you or the patients/community members you serve.**

**Note: When sending your representatives an email, adding your personal connection to the issue makes a world of difference! Legislators are four times more likely to consider taking action on an issue if they receive a personalized email rather than a form letter, according to the Congressional Management Foundation. Share why the issue you are asking them to support is important to you or how the issue impacts your district.**

**Template for House Representative:**

Dear Representative [insert legislator name],

[Introduce self and experience as a dietitian]

On April 10th, the Senate passed their version of the Boards and Commissions bill ([SF 2385)](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=90&ba=S-5132), which would eliminate dietetics licensure. This is **very concerning** as it would negatively impact:

* Public protection against harmful nutrition care by unqualified nutrition practitioners
* The ability of dietitians to lawfully practice medical nutrition therapy in Iowa
* Access to nutrition care - licensure enables health insurers to identify and credential qualified providers
* The ability for Iowa registered dietitians to participate in the [Dietitian Licensure Compact](https://compacts.csg.org/compact-updates/the-interstate-compact-for-dietitians/), which would streamline dietitians’ ability to provide nutrition care across state lines. This is huge as **46 states** (including MI, which just passed a [bill](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2023-HB-4608) licensing dietitians) require dietitians to be licensed or certified.

As the House moves forward on actions regarding the Boards and Commissions bill, I ask that you please hold firm in voting against any version of the bill that eliminates dietetics licensure in Iowa.

It is best practice across the country to issue licenses or certifications around the practice of dietetics:

* Currently, 46 states (including MI, which just passed a [bill](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2023-HB-4608) licensing dietitians) issue licenses or certifications in the practice of nutrition and dietetics.
* Arizona (one of the 4 states that doesn't) also has a dietetics licensure bill moving forward this session.

**Iowa is the ONLY state** currently working toward eliminating dietetics licensure and reversing years of progress for our profession. Particularly in a time of high chronic disease states and health care costs, our services as dietitians are essential to the public health of Iowa communities.

Like other healthcare professionals, dietitians offer a medical service to manage chronic and acute conditions, which needs to be regulated in order for us to be able to lawfully practice at our level of competence and training. Without licensure, **registered dietitians have no legal authority** to practice medical nutrition therapy, the service for which they are trained and most qualified to provide.

In fact, a requirement for a registered dietitian to be licensed is written into several Iowa regulations, such as the [Licensure and Regulation of Hospitals](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ico/chapter/135B.pdf), [nursing facilities](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ACO/chapter/481.58.pdf), [WIC program](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/rule/06-05-2019.641.73.4.pdf), and several [Medicaid manuals](https://hhs.iowa.gov/media/4303/download?inline=).

Generally, **payers, such as** **insurance companies, look to licensure** to identify who is a qualified provider of medical nutrition therapy and to **assess a practitioner's eligibility for reimbursement.** Requiring licensure of qualified dietetics practitioners **expands access to nutrition care and income opportunities** for RDNs.

Additionally, maintaining the Iowa Board of Dietetics in its current form or as a subcommittee under the Board of Medicine ensures that there is regulatory oversight by peer professionals with a thorough understanding of the requirements and standards of practice for dietetic practitioners. The Board is self-sufficient and does not utilize taxpayer expenses, while serving the interests of Iowa citizens.

**As your constituent, I ask that you please vote to retain:**

* Dietetics licensure in Iowa
* The Board of Dietetics in its current form OR as a subcommittee under the Board of Medicine

For more information on dietetics licensure and the Board of Dietetics, see the attached handouts.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

If you have further questions, please utilize me as a resource or you can connect with our Iowa Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Policy Team at policyeatrightiowa@gmail.com.

[Insert contact information including street address]

**Template for Senator:**

Dear Senator [insert legislator name],

[Introduce self and experience as a dietitian]

As your constituent, I want to express my deep concern for the Senate Boards and Commissions bill ([SF 2385)](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=90&ba=S-5132) passed on April 10th, which would eliminate dietetics licensure.

**This bill is troubling as it would negatively impact:**

* Public protection against harmful nutrition care by unqualified nutrition practitioners
* The ability of dietitians to lawfully practice medical nutrition therapy in Iowa
* Access to nutrition care - licensure enables health insurers to identify and credential qualified providers
* The ability for Iowa registered dietitians to participate in the [Dietitian Licensure Compact](https://compacts.csg.org/compact-updates/the-interstate-compact-for-dietitians/), which would streamline dietitians’ ability to provide nutrition care across state lines. This is huge as **46 states** (including MI, which just passed a [bill](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2023-HB-4608) licensing dietitians) require dietitians to be licensed or certified.

As future versions of this bill come up for a vote, I ask that you please vote against any version of the bill that eliminates dietetics licensure in Iowa.

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[Insert contact information including street address]