



Center for
Holistic
Medicine

October 15, 2013

To: All Regulatory Reform Committee Members
Re: HB 4688 to Repeal Dietetics Nutrition Practice Act

We the undersigned physicians urge your support of HB 4688 to repeal PA 333, the Dietetics & Nutrition Practice Act. The rash of licensing bills across the country restricting those who give advice to Registered Dietitians does not serve the health or safety of the public. This licensure law only allows RDs on the Michigan Board of Nutrition and Dietetics, and only recognizes the RD credential for licensure. It is inherently biased and serves only the interest of dietitians. A well written law would recognize the other excellent credentials and certifications of nutritionists, along with the RD. This law does not serve the health of the public, and it is detrimental to the nutrition profession overall.

There has been an unfortunate drive in these laws to "medicalize" the provision of all nutrition care beyond what is medically necessary or even prudent. There is vast difference between the acutely malnourished, hospitalized patient requiring highly specialized care and the general public most of whom suffer from a poor diet that lands them, or will land them somewhere on a continuum of poor health.

As physicians we have seen the enormous health benefit and cost savings that can result from the nutrition counseling our patients have received from nutritionists and health coaches who would not be allowed to practice if the current law is allowed to stand. These practitioners are highly skilled in helping individuals make the daily connections between their health and their diet, and put that knowledge into action. We have seen disease processes prevented or reversed, and the need for medications decreased as a result. As physicians we want to retain the choice of to whom we refer our patients.

PA 333 is so broad as to capture a range of preventative and restorative nutrition care that can be safely provided by many more individuals than the law would allow. This would have the result of denying the benefits of this excellent nutrition guidance care to all Michiganders. Further, the impact of this law is antithetical to Governor Snyder's 4 x 4 Michigan Wellness Plan, a plan that is built on taking personal responsibility for health.

For these reasons we urge you to vote in favor of HB 4688.

Sincerely,

David Brownstein, M.D.

Richard Ng, M.D.

Jeffrey Nusbaum, M.D.