

Testimony for SB 2187

In support of the bill

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Minot, ND

I have been a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for over 40 years. I began my practice in Williston, and provided consultative services to facilities in Northeastern Montana for many years. I retired from a career at Minot Air Force Base and then Trinity Health in Minot in early 2020.

During my time in practice, there have been many improvements in the provision of nutrition services in our state. For example, when I began, there were no fitness centers in my area, no health coaches, no sports medicine trainers and no in-person weight loss centers. When our licensure bill became law in 1985, we had no Medical Nutrition Therapy, no certified programs for persons with diabetes, and no health food stores in my area. I was the sole nutrition expert, and as such, required to maintain continuing professional education to stay current. Physicians called upon me to lecture to their students, coaches, and patients, admitting they had little nutrition training in medical school. School groups, civic organizations, and weight loss groups requested my help. I was glad to provide my expertise and ensure citizens in my area were provided accurate, science-based information.

As is apparent, we have evolved significantly. The changes proposed in this bill will allow persons with appropriate education and training to perform many aspects of nutrition services. The bill also expands provision to licensed professionals working within their scopes of practice. This bill will continue to protect the public from unscrupulous and untrained persons providing advice that may actually do harm. Please support this bill and continue to provide the citizens of North Dakota with the best nutrition care possible.