

Testimony of Amy Davis, RDN, LRD

In Support of SB 2187

Senate Human Services Committee

Senator Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Davis and I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. I've been a Registered Dietitian for 23 years and have been a licensed registered dietitian in North Dakota for 14 years. I chose dietetics as a career due to my passion for making a difference and to help people improve their health.

Registered Dietitian Nutritionists work in a variety of settings including health care, business, industry, community/public health, education, research, government agencies and private practice. Registered Dietitian Nutritionists educate patient/clients about nutrition and provide medical nutrition therapy as part of the health care team.

In my 23 years of experience as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, I have had the opportunity to work in many areas of dietetics including, acute and long-term care, outpatient medical nutrition therapy, weight management, outpatient dialysis, clinical nutrition management and food service management.

One of the changes proposed in this bill clearly identifies who is qualified to provide medical nutrition therapy. Medical nutrition therapy (MNT) is based on on-going evidenced based scientific research to help treat disease and medical conditions. It is different from nutrition education for the general public. I understand the risks and potential harm of unqualified individuals providing medical nutrition therapy. Here is a good example of that- a patient with chronic kidney disease was given weight loss advice from a personal trainer. The patient was told to eat more protein which resulted in further decline of their kidney function to the point of almost needing to start dialysis.

Modernization of North Dakota's Dietetics/Nutrition Practice Act needs to happen to continue to protect the safety and well-being of the citizens of our great state.

Please pass SB 2187. Thank you for your time.