

Date: February 7, 2024

Bill: House Bill 378 State Board of Dietetic Practice -Dietician Nutritionists Licensure Requirements

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Position: SUPPORT

My name is Leslie Jackson-Vallade, I am a Certified Nutrition Specialist and a Licensed Dietician Nutritionist in the state of Maryland. I am the chair of the Maryland Nutrition Association (MNA), which is a chapter of the American Nutrition Association, a non-profit, professional organization dedicated to advancing personalized nutrition science and practice. This includes their certifying arm, the Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists (BCNS), which oversees the Certified Nutrition Specialist (CNS) certification, a credential for advanced practitioners in personalized nutrition.

With the ongoing backing of the ANA, the MNA chapter represents over 340 Certified Nutrition Specialists in the state.

As the Chair of the Maryland Nutrition Association (MNA), expressing support for HB378 signifies backing for critical updates to the names of both the American Nutrition Association (ANA) and the Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists (BCNS). This endorsement suggests that the updates facilitated by HB378 aim to ensure alignment with current practices and recognition and credibility of the ANA and BCNS within the professional community and the public.

An amendment is proposed to Page 2, line 11 regarding educational requirements. The CNS's require a master's level education for all certified practitioners. While our educational standards exceed this requirement, we do not oppose the amendment as it is written.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Leslie Jackson-Vallade, MS, CNS, LDN
Chair, Maryland Nutrition Association

