
MARYLAND ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

Date: February 13, 2025
Bill: House Bill 869 – Preserve Telehealth Act of 2025
Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair
Position: SUPPORT



The Maryland Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (MAND), is an organization representing approximately 1,000 licensed dietitians and nutritionists, dietetic interns, and students within the state of Maryland.

House Bill 869 “repeals the limitation on the period during which the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations are required to provide reimbursement (payment parity) for certain health care services provided through telehealth (including audio only).”

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (“The Academy”) believes it is vital to ensure everyone has timely, continuous access to safe, effective nutrition services that can improve their health and manage their chronic diseases. Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) are recognized by the National Academy of Medicine (formerly Institute of Medicine) as the most qualified food and nutrition service providers. In Maryland, RDNs must also be licensed as a Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist (LDNs) to practice. Studies show Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) provided by an RDN/LDN leads to improved clinical outcomes and reduced costs associated with physician time, medication use and hospital admissions for people with obesity, diabetes and lipid metabolism disorders, as well as other chronic diseases.

The Academy urges state Medicaid programs and private payers to continue covering nutrition services provided via telehealth by Maryland RDNs/LDNs. This bill will continue to address potential telehealth access to care issues by extending telehealth provisions enacted in Maryland in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continue to prove valuable in helping patients get the care they need in an efficient and accessible manner.

MAND stands ready as a resource and partner in this important undertaking. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

We respectfully ask for a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 869.

Sincerely,

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