



WISCONSIN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION

eat right an affiliate of the American Dietetic Association

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November 19, 2010

Dear Representative

On behalf of the Wisconsin Dietetic Association, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the State Assembly. Election to public office is a tremendous accomplishment that requires great dedication, and the WDA wishes you success as you work to address the many challenges facing the state of Wisconsin.

As you know, the WDA is a statewide organization comprised of nearly 1,700 nutrition professionals dedicated to providing expert food and nutrition services to the citizens of Wisconsin. We promote the role of registered dietitians and dietetic technicians registered in Wisconsin's health care system and the positive impact good nutrition has on overall health and wellness.

Our members are employed in hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, government agencies, universities, food industries and schools in every community throughout the state. The food and nutrition benefits offered by registered dietitians include weight loss plans, nutrition programs, diabetes care and heart disease prevention – all of which help reduce morbidity and health care costs.

Making informed food choices and developing smart eating habits are essential to a healthy lifestyle. Unfortunately, it's not always easy for people to obtain accurate, evidence-based nutrition information. In order to address this issue, the WDA's top legislative priority heading into the 2011-12 legislative session is passage of the ***Dietitian Licensure Bill***.

When it comes to healthy lifestyle choices, there is no room for government mandates. Prevention and wellness is critical to lower health care costs and should be promoted, but healthy living is ultimately a personal choice. But at the very least, Wisconsin citizens in need of advanced nutrition care for chronic disease and illness should be aware if their providers are properly educated, trained and licensed by the state.

That's exactly what the ***Dietitian Licensure Bill*** seeks to accomplish – license Registered Dietitians who provide advanced nutrition therapy and help insulate Wisconsin residents from unqualified, and often times unethical nutrition practitioners. Dietetics is a science, just like medicine, nursing, pharmacy or physical therapy, and a state-issued license should be required to practice in the field.

The WDA understands the state's current fiscal situation and the need to focus on improving Wisconsin's economy. And while you and your colleagues must address a number of important issues, our members look forward to partnering with the Legislature to advance effective, pro-consumer nutrition policies.

Again, congratulations on your election to the Legislature! If you have any questions about the WDA or the ***Licensure Bill***, please do not hesitate to contact our main office at 888-232-8631 or wda@centurytel.net.

Sincerely,


Lynn Edwards, RD, CD

WDA Executive Coordinator