



To: Representative William Carpenter, Chair and Members, House Health and Human Services

From: Kylee Childs, Director of Government Affairs, LeadingAge Kansas

Date: 2/5/2025

LeadingAge Kansas is the state association for not-for-profit and mission-focused aging services. We have 150 member organizations across Kansas, which include not-for-profit nursing homes, retirement communities, hospital long-term care units, assisted living, home plus, senior housing, low-income housing, home health agencies, home and community-based service programs, PACE and Meals on Wheels. Our members serve more than 25,000 older Kansans each day and employ more than 20,000 people across the state.

Proponent Testimony for HB2070

As of January 1, 2024, individuals seeking to become Registered Dietitians are required to hold a master's degree from a U.S. Department of Education-accredited institution to be eligible to take the credentialing exam. This requirement from the national accrediting body has made it even more difficult for adult care home providers, specifically nursing homes, who are required to hire or contract with a Registered Dietitian. With Kansas already facing a shortage of dietitians, especially in long-term care and adult care home settings, this change threatens access to essential nutritional care for some of our most vulnerable residents. HB2070 offers a critical solution to this growing workforce crisis by enabling Kansas to join the Dietician Licensure Compact, which will increase the availability of qualified dietitians in our state.

We believe this bill can help:

- Expand the talent pool available to adult care homes
- Reduce administrative burdens on facilities seeking to recruit and retain qualified dietary professionals
- Enhance workforce mobility which is beneficial for smaller communities
- Support military families and spouses who frequently relocate and can continue their careers without unnecessary licensing barriers

We believe HB2070 is a necessary step to address the consequences of the national accrediting body's requirement for dietitians. By adopting the Dietician Licensure Compact, Kansas will strengthen the workforce supporting adult care homes, improve access to essential dietary services, and ensure that our state remains competitive in attracting and retaining qualified nutrition professionals. We respectfully request the committee to pass this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.