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Dear Chairman Carpenter and Health and Human Services Committee Members,

I am writing to you in support of **HB 2070- dietitian licensure compact to provide interstate practice privileges for dietitians.**

My name is Jordan Chen and I am a registered dietitian and a small business owner of an insurance-based private practice in Manhattan Kansas. I started my practice in 2021 and have grown to employing one other full time dietitian currently. Over the years we have helped hundreds of patients reach their health goals, get off of various medications including blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes medication, as well as just overall have a better quality of life. We all know how important nutrition is for optimal health and how it is much better it is to prevent the worsening of chronic diseases by helping patients with the root cause of their health issues—which a majority of the time is related to their diet.

As you may already be aware, Manhattan is located near Fort Riley, and about 10% of my patients are Tricare recipients. I also have a lot of K-State students that are patients, but they also are in Manhattan a short time. After the liberalization of telehealth laws over the past few years, it has been such a relief for many of my patients because they can now see me via telehealth, even if they are home bound, live hours away, or have too busy of a schedule to drive to my clinic.

The barriers many of my patients run into include having to discontinue care if they have to move. Many military families and K-State students are not able to have continuous care, and it doesn't make financial sense for me to maintain licensure in various states around the country if only one or two patients move to a specific state. Not only that, but I employed a military spouse dietitian and she felt like she was abandoning her patients once she had to move this year to Alabama.

A licensure compact law would alleviate unneeded barriers for patients to access care, and support qualified licensed nutrition professionals to provide said care across state lines more easily. I urge members of the committee to support this compact and support Kansans to have better access to nutrition care.

Sincerely,

Jordan Chen

Practice Owner

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