



Date: February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

To: The Kansas Health and Human Services Committee

From: The Kansas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Dear Chairman Williams and Health and Human Services Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Kansas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics as this year's president to express strong support for **HB 2070 – the Dietitian Licensure Compact**. Licensed dietitians play a critical role in promoting health and well-being, not only in Kansas but across the country.

The Compact has already been enacted in four states—Alabama, Tennessee, Nebraska, and Ohio—and will become active once adopted by seven states. By passing HB 2070, Kansas has the opportunity to be a **leading state** in the Compact Commission, which will oversee its administration.

Currently, dietitians providing nutrition care services across state lines—whether in person or via telehealth—must obtain separate licenses for each state, a process that can be both time-consuming and costly. The **Dietitian Licensure Compact** offers a streamlined, cost-effective solution to facilitate interstate practice while maintaining high professional standards. This initiative is particularly beneficial for **military personnel, military spouses, and telehealth providers**, helping to reduce barriers to practice after relocation and expanding access to essential nutrition services.

Additionally, the Compact enhances **public safety and workforce development** by eliminating unnecessary licensure burdens while maintaining state sovereignty. To address any questions or concerns, I have attached two documents explaining how the Compact functions and safeguards state authority (of note, one was prepared last year when concerns of state sovereignty were expressed). For further clarification, you may also contact **Matt Schafer** from The Council of State Governments at [mshafer@csg.org](mailto:mshafer@csg.org).

By supporting HB 2070, Kansas can **increase access to care and improve health outcomes** for its residents. I urge you to support this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide any further assistance or information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Melaney Coco", is positioned above the typed name.

Melaney Coco, MS, RD, LD

President, Kansas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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