

**House Health & Human Services**

**02/26/2025 01:30 PM**

**HB25-1220 Regulation of Medical Nutrition Therapy**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Melissa Gaskin Against themselves	<p>Dear Members of the Health &amp; Human Services Committee,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding House Bill 25-1220, which proposes the regulation of medical nutrition therapy through licensure requirements for dietitians and nutritionists in Colorado. While I acknowledge the intent to standardize the profession and ensure public safety, I believe this bill may have unintended negative consequences that warrant careful consideration.</p> <p>1. Restriction of Practice and Access to Care</p> <p>The bill mandates that, effective September 1, 2026, individuals must obtain licensure from the newly established State Board of Dietetics and Nutrition to provide medical nutrition therapy. This requirement could inadvertently exclude competent professionals who have been practicing safely and effectively without licensure, thereby reducing the availability of qualified nutrition services. Such a reduction in the workforce may lead to decreased access to care for residents, particularly in underserved or rural areas where healthcare resources are already limited.</p> <p>2. Economic and Professional Barriers</p> <p>The licensure process outlined in the bill includes specific educational achievements, supervised practice experiences, and successful completion of examinations. These requirements may pose significant financial and logistical challenges for current practitioners who do not meet the specified criteria but have substantial practical experience. The costs associated with additional education, examination fees, and potential loss of income during this period</p>

	<p>could be burdensome, potentially driving skilled professionals out of the field.</p> <p>3. Potential for Increased Healthcare Costs</p> <p>By limiting the pool of practitioners through stringent licensure requirements, the bill could inadvertently increase the cost of medical nutrition therapy services. A reduced number of licensed professionals may lead to higher demand for their services, allowing for increased fees. This escalation in costs could make essential nutrition services less affordable and accessible to the general population, counteracting the bill's intent to promote public health.</p> <p>4. Overlapping Scope with Other Health Professionals</p> <p>Many healthcare providers, such as nurses, pharmacists, and wellness coaches, incorporate nutrition counseling into their practice as part of a holistic approach to patient care. The licensure requirements proposed in HB 25-1220 may create ambiguity regarding the scope of practice for these professionals, potentially leading to legal challenges or the necessity for additional certifications. This overlap could complicate interdisciplinary collaboration and continuity of care for patients.</p> <p>5. Criminalization of Unlicensed Practice</p> <p>The bill classifies the unlicensed practice of dietetics or nutrition as a class 2 misdemeanor. This criminalization may be disproportionate, especially considering that many unlicensed practitioners have been providing valuable services without prior incident. Introducing criminal penalties could deter individuals from pursuing careers in nutrition and discourage current practitioners from continuing their services, further diminishing the availability of care.</p> <p>In conclusion, while the standardization of medical nutrition therapy practices aims to enhance public health, the provisions of HB 25-1220 may lead to reduced access to care, economic burdens on practitioners, increased healthcare costs, professional overlap issues, and the unnecessary criminalization of unlicensed practice. I urge the committee to consider these potential impacts carefully and explore</p>
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	<p>alternative approaches that ensure quality care without imposing undue restrictions on qualified professionals.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Melissa Gaskin</p>
<p>Michael Belz Amend Nutritional Therapy Association, Inc.</p>	<p>Dear Sponsors and Members,</p> <p>I am Michael Belz, CEO of the Nutritional Therapy Association (NTA), and I am reaching out to formally request an amendment to HB25-1220. Specifically, we are concerned about language that leaves the door open for the Board of Dietetics, or other entities, to modify the definition of Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) without going through the legislative process.</p> <p>This ambiguity has sparked significant concern among our community of over 10,000 trained practitioners, many of whom serve clients in Colorado. We have seen similar legislation passed in other states, only to be altered after the fact in ways that restrict the ability of our graduates to work one-on-one with clients. Even minor changes to this language could have far-reaching implications for their right to practice.</p> <p>For context, the NTA’s mission is to reverse the epidemic of preventable poor health by educating and empowering wellness professionals in every community. Our graduates work with clients to support foundational health through nutrient-dense diets, proper digestion, blood sugar regulation, stress management, and restorative sleep. We talk about these foundations and help with recommendations and proper supportive supplementation. Unfortunately, we have witnessed the Board of Dietetics take actions in various states that limit access to these critical services. To protect practitioners and ensure due process, we strongly urge the inclusion of language that prevents post-legislative modifications without appropriate oversight.</p>

	<p>We appreciate your time, consideration, and support in addressing this pressing issue. Please let us know how we can assist in strengthening this bill to protect both practitioners and the communities they serve.</p> <p>Best regards,                  Michael Belz                  CEO                  Nutritional Therapy Association, Inc.  <a href="http://www.nutritionaltherapy.com">www.nutritionaltherapy.com</a></p>
<p>Jeany Rush                  Against                  herself</p>	<p>TO: HOUSE HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE                  RE: HB25-1220 REGULATION OF MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY                  SPONSORS: McCormick, Hartsook, Pelton, Mullica 2-26-25                  FROM: Jeany Rush, Colorado Springs Constituent                  VOTE: NO and NO</p> <p>This bill works to cut off options to the public when it comes to their choices in health and diet. Most important, this bill criminalizes Health Education without a license. By misusing the need for consumer safety, this bill attempts to muzzle people, and thereby control them. Control is the underlying theme in this legislature, and this body in Colorado. It is outright criminal, and unconstitutional!</p> <p>By trying to squeeze wellness and chronic disease prevention into Medical Nutrition Therapy, or determining what it is, you are misleading with this bill. The definition is much broader than what this bill defines, and erodes the real need for individualized support by unlicensed practitioners. This will be abused.</p> <p>This also removes the vital need to do lab tests, by many professionals in helping in nutrition support systems. It is an unfair restriction.</p> <p>This bill will in fact, prohibit sharing of supplement information recommendations.</p> <p>LET'S BE CLEAR: THE FDA, CDC, WHO HAS FED US SO MUCH HORSE MANURE AND LIES, ALONG WITH THE CURRENT PHARMA INDUSTRY, IT COULD AND IS KILLING US ALL SLOWLY. THE DATA FDA AND CDC ALONE HAVE IS OUTDATED, OR BOUGHT AND PAID FOR! REFERENCE: COVID, A BIOWEAPON, PATHOGEN DESIGNED TO DEPOPULATE, NOT HELP ANYTHING, WAS PUSHED, AND A LOT OF SICK PEOPLE GOT RICH. MILLIONS DIED. WHY IN THE FREAKING HADES WOULD WE ALLOW ANYONE TO FORCE US BACK INTO THAT</p>

	<p>PANDORA’S BOX? WE WILL NOT! YOU ARE NOT QUALIFIED, OR HAVE A RIGHT TO TAKE AWAY OUR FREEDOM OF CHOICE AND OPTIONS TO MANAGE OUR BILLS! NOW ALL OF THE ALTERNATIVE MEDICINES AND HERBS ARE COMING OUT TO SHARE WITH ALL. IT IS LIFE SAVING, AND WE AND OUR SOLDIERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, ALL OF OUR KIDS HAVE BEEN HARMED, AND NOW NEED DETOX. NONE OF THE PSEUDO PROFESSIONALS SAVED US. NOTHING!</p> <p>This bill would restrict wellness advice of all levels, and over steps our individual rights in this nation. The broad manner in which this operates, definitely is not a good thing for anyone.</p> <p>This over reach on the state’s part, will exclude, or squeeze out many existing and experienced professionals, private practitioners, who have worked for decades, and have more expertise than the people on this board.</p> <p>Further, the creation of yet another board, “State Board of Dietetics and Nutrition under the supervision and control of the division of professions and occupations in the department of regulatory agencies” just creates another government entity you cannot pay for, nor properly manage, monitor. This further intrudes on our rights as citizens, but worse, it makes you the Ministry of yet another department. The rules for the future control of too much of this bill, lends yet another broad brush to eventually give unelected boards power over our communities and their individual rights. There are already designations the public can use, and YOU need to stop jumping into everything. The State does not have a right to make another GULAG.</p> <p>You all preach diversity, but the only diversity I see is criminals can come here, while citizens get punished. You in fact, are forcing the opposite of diversity in nutrition and wellness options! We ask you STOP! We do not need more agencies created by this state, what we actually need is a DOGE to see where all the waste is! That is a true statement! Billions of waste.</p>
<p>Gina Forcatto Amend themselves</p>	<p>I have been a nutrition and fitness coach for 24 years. I have served thousands of individuals by helping them make lifestyle changes through exercise, dietary changes, stress management, and supplementation. I am spent thousands of dollars in certifications over the years, always desiring to become a better advocate for my clients/potential clients. My own health recovery came from recommendations from some licensed practitioners, but mostly non licensed, and it did not come from western medicine because they</p>

	<p>could not offer me a solution to the underlying causes of my health issues.</p> <p>My livelihood is at stake...money spent, hours studying and taking exams from accredited programs...all would be lost and my family and I would need to leave CO in order to be able to maintain my income.</p> <p>People should be able to choose whom they want to work with, and pay, for their health. Please amend this bill to remove "misdemeanor" and any other charge that would obliterate thousands of small businesses here in CO. We are the ones who have helped to make this state the healthiest in the nation.</p> <p>Thank you, Gina Forcatto</p>
<p>Pete Risano Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Honorable Representatives,</p> <p>I adamantly oppose HB25-1220 - Regulation of Medical Nutrition Bill.</p> <p>While this bill may look innocuous by differentiating between 'medical nutrition' &amp; 'nonmedical nutrition' in its verbiage, that distinction is just a red herring. It clearly is creating a monopoly in Colorado for a select group of practitioners and making their competitors' business models illegal.</p> <p>Access to food and personal dietary decisions are a basic right to all humans. Amidst a chronic health epidemic in this country, this bill is attempting to control your constituents' access to information and entirely remove their ability to decide the path to wellness that best suits them.</p> <p>I urge you to vote no on HB25-1220 and keep Colorado healthy.</p> <p>Sincerely, Your concerned constituent, Pete Risano</p>
<p>Cami Smalley</p>	<p>Hello,</p>

<p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Constituents of Colorado should not be forced to go to only government-sanctioned practitioners.</p> <p>This bill is an infringement on medical freedom, and erodes the ability for your constituents of Colorado to choose who they see for nutritional and food advice.</p> <p>At a time when we are experiencing a health crisis in America, rampant obesity and diabetes, Coloradoans should not be limited by the number of nutritionists available to help them with food, diet and lifestyle modifications. Nor should they have limited access to SUPPORT from nutritionists that would not be covered under this bill.</p> <p>The DORA Sunrise report does not recommend regulating the practice of Medical Nutrition Therapy. Contrary to what the Bill's fact sheet states, it would not increase access to equitable and affordable healthcare. The bill would actually drastically REDUCE the number of qualified practitioners, namely nutritionists with Master's degrees, available to people of Colorado.</p> <p>Nor would the bill "prevent harm from unqualified practitioners", as the fact sheet states.</p> <p>I have an undergraduate degree in Biology and I spent 2 1/2 years studying an extensive nutrition curriculum at UWS, and finished with a Masters of Science degree in Human Nutrition. I am qualified and competent to provide guidance on food and nutritional health. I've spent a lot on my education. The expense and time that would be required if this bill passes, would greatly hinder my livelihood - and WOULD NOT CHANGE how I practice now.</p> <p>This bill is geared towards dietitians working in hospitals and for liability reasons. This is NOT my scope of work and I should not be required to now get certified to discuss sleep health, food choices, adequate nutrition intake with regards to vitamins and minerals, exercise options to fit the individual, and breathing techniques with my clients. And if you think this bill protects my business, please understand the language in the bill is too vague and I would be susceptible...</p>
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	<p>HB 1220 creates a CLASS 2 MISDEMEANOR CHARGE for anyone trying to help another through a healing act;</p> <p>This bill would criminalize nutritionists, health coaches and many others that are not educated in the "Allowed Way".</p> <p>Please, I urge you, to consider my livelihood, many other decades-long practicing nutritionists, and those aspiring to be, and not limit access to nutrition in Colorado.</p> <p>We've been the healthiest state for the longest time for a reason.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Cami</p>
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