

House Finance

03/17/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1220 Regulation of Medical Nutrition Therapy

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Jess Sorci For themselves	<p>Thank you to the committee and Mr. Lindstedt for your time today.</p> <p>My name is Jess Sorci. I represent myself, and all Certified Nutrition Specialists in the state of Colorado.</p> <p>I am here to urge the committee to vote yes on HB25-1220. If this bill is approved, it will allow Certified Nutrition Specialist to seek a path of licensure in the state of Colorado. The approval of this bill will help Coloradoans gain science-based nutrition and medical nutrition therapy with the ability to bill insurance, allowing all to seek nutrition services.</p> <p>In addition, the approval of this bill will help Colorado citizens understand the difference between various nutrition practitioners. Currently, in the state of Colorado, there is no regulation for those practicing nutrition, including medical nutrition therapy. This bill's approval would allow Coloradoans the ability to seek nutrition services from those with high level nutrition education and board certification.</p> <p>Please consider a yes vote on HB25-1220.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Martha Hammel Amend themselves	<p>Hello. My name is Martha Hammel, I've been working as a nutritionist in Colorado since 2017. While I support the creation of a board licensing nutrition professionals, I am concerned about the overly restrictive language in the bill.</p> <p>The bill currently restricts practice to those certified as dietitians who received their education through the Accreditation Council for Nutrition and Dietetics. This overlooks the many other highly trained professionals who have trained in nutrition through equivalent programs.</p> <p>I have a master's degree in nutrition. from the Maryland University of Integrative Health and am certified as a certified nutrition specialist. The requirements to be certified as a CNS include completing a master's or doctoral level program, a 1000</p>

	<p>internship, and a robust professional exam. The CNS certification is applicable for state licensing in 21 states.</p> <p>The CNS credential is one of a handful of certifications that qualify a person to practice nutrition in Colorado. Many Coloradans, including myself, chose a nutrition education path that would allow us to practice under the current state laws. Restricting licenses to those who trained under a single training program would effectively end the careers of so many Coloradans who have chosen a different path.</p> <p>It is imperative that as you build your board you consider the validity of other training programs.</p> <p>Thank you so much.</p> <p>Martha Hammel, CNS</p>
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Good afternoon, Chair and members of the Committee, my name is Wendy Buxton-Andrade and I am here representing Mental Health Colorado in support of HB25-1220. For seventy-one years, Mental Health Colorado, the non-partisan non-profit has been acting as our state's leading advocate for healthier minds across the lifespan for all Coloradans.

This bill is an important step in making sure that medical nutrition therapy is regulated and accountable to the individual seeking services. Like hydration, sleep, and movement, nutrition is fundamental and indispensable to our health and well-being. With grocery store shelves crowded with products of very questionable nutritional value, and media broadcasting fad diets and pharmaceutical shortcuts to better looking bodies, meaningful education, licensure, and regulation for individuals selling their services as medical nutritionists is vital to accountability and to improved outcomes for individuals pursuing health and well-being. As Coloradans try to navigate their way to a healthy lifestyle and make necessary changes in their overall health, how and what we eat is of the utmost importance. Many of the diseases and conditions we experience in today's society are tied to our food sources and eating habits. Having certified professionals who are qualified to inform us accurately about these issues will Coloradans seeking valid Nutritional guidance to move in a positive healthy direction.

Please vote to support HB25-1220, for a healthier community. Thank you

Thank you, Chairman. My name is Karen Falbo and I am the Director of Nutrition Education at Natural Grocers.

In my work, I have seen how the accessibility of nutrition care in Colorado balances safety and choice through the 2013 "Natural Health Consumer Protection Act." This proven framework empowers informed personal choice by preserving access to diverse wellness approaches while ensuring consumer well-being. The "Natural Health Consumer Protection Act" established specific restrictions and responsibilities that qualified professionals must uphold whenever they provide wellness services. The statute has very effectively provided safeguards for consumers without applying rigid licensing requirements to the broad variety of qualified professionals that provide the majority of routine nutrition care in Colorado. **Please amend HB 1220** to provide robust exemptions that allow the "Natural Health Consumer Protection Act" to continue to work as intended.

Written Testimony in Support of Colorado HB25-1220

Kelsey Martin, CNS, LDN

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Colorado House of Representatives

House Finance Committee

State Capitol Building

200 E. Colfax Ave.

Denver, CO 80203

RE: Support for HB25-1220

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Kelsey Martin, I am a board-certified CNS and LDN. I am writing to express my strong support for the House Bill 25-1220. This legislation is a crucial step toward recognizing CNS and RDs to be the only licensed nutrition professionals permitted to practice Medical Nutrition Therapy – the treatment of diagnosed conditions through medical nutrition interventions - in the state of Colorado.

As a licensed CNS I feel the current law negatively impacts our community by allowing nutrition professionals lacking the necessary training to promote out-of-scope practices, increasing risk of harm to patients in their care. HB25-1220 will provide two distinct licensure pathways – one for Licensed Nutritionists, which includes Certified Nutrition Specialists and the other for Licensed Dietitians, which includes Registered Dietitians. This will help ensure that the nutrition practitioners providing Medical Nutrition Therapy are qualified and licensed to do so. It is important to recognize that this bill does not restrict the broader field of nutrition care. Nutrition professionals, wellness practitioners, and health coaches will continue to be allowed to provide individualized, NON-medical nutrition therapy guidance as well as primary disease prevention and support without a license. For public safety, Medical Nutrition Therapy should be provided only by licensed practitioners.

This bill is not just necessary, but timely. Currently, Medicaid members face barriers when seeking Medical Nutrition Therapy, especially as it relates to chronic disease and eating disorders. Licensure is crucial for access, as Medicaid only contracts with licensed providers. Passing this bill helps improve access, reduces cost and ensures

patient safety. By passing HB25-1220, Colorado can set a strong precedent and meaningful step toward increasing access to high-quality, individualized nutrition care for all Colorado citizens.

I urge the committee to support this important legislation and advance it for passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kelsey Martin, CNS, LDN

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