



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 845		DATE: 3/29/2023	
COMMITTEE: Professional Registration and Licensing			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALISON GRIFFITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: hill.alison1@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2023 3:43 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Hello, My name is Alison Griffith, a soon to be Dietitian and I am writing you to encourage your support of MO HB845. I have worked very hard to complete my Master's Degree in Dietetics and graduated this past December. I am currently working full time as "Registration Eligible" at a hospital and have been since graduation. I am also studying for my RD exam in the evenings and on the weekends, which is very difficult to do while working full time. Because of the licensure laws for Dietitians in Missouri, I am not able to perform the job of a Dietitian until I have passed my exam. Temporary licensure for Dietitians who have not passed the exam yet would mean hands on experience to solidify concepts we are studying for the RD Exam, therefore better exam outcomes, which is currently only at a 67% nationwide pass rate in 2022. Not only would the passing of this bill be beneficial for Dietitians, it would ensure that new Dietitians can perform at a competent level because this bill ensures that Dietitians on a temporary license are supervised directly by a Licensed Registered Dietitian. This would improve patient nutrition related outcomes in many settings. Again, I ask that you please support HB845- Temporary Licenses for Dietitians.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:
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EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2023 11:53 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CONNIE DIEKMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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EMAIL: cbdiekman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/27/2023 10:03 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am an RD, a former President of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and a member of the State Committee of Dietitians. I am writing to encourage quick movement of these bills to rectify a gap in the current Dietitian Practice Act. The current Act does not recognize the gap in time between a new grad completing their academic requirements, passing their registration exam and getting licensed. This gap means that new grads often have to wait 8 - 12 weeks before they can start a job. Not only is this gap hard on new grads, it is a disadvantage to Missouri residents who need to see an RD. We need to ensure that RD's are available throughout the state to help residents as they deal with diseases that require medical nutrition therapy. Thank You, Connie Diekman, M.Ed., RD, LD, FADA, FAND



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CONSTANCE PIPER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: k1b3piper@charter.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/27/2023 2:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a former manager of dietitians at both Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital and St Louis University Hospital, it was often difficult to manage the hiring of new dietitians who had recently graduated. Our national organization does not permit dietetic interns to take their registration exam that allows them to become registered and licensed in the state of Missouri until they have completed all their coursework in the dietetic internship. They can be hired immediately after graduation but cannot practice as a dietitian in the hospital until they are licensed. Generally I would hire them and have them do tasks such as nutrition screening that did not require the license but it is frustrating when you are short staffed and cannot utilize staff that are fully trained but not licensed yet. The temporary license would help to eliminate this problem. In rural areas where it is difficult to hire dietitians this is particularly useful. This should have been included previously in the dietitian licensure act and was an oversight so this would correct that oversight.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELAINE BEULICK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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EMAIL: elaine.beulick@slu.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2023 4:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a recent graduate (2021) of a Master's Program in Nutrition, and a Dietetic Internship in Missouri, I support this bill. There were many students who graduated my year who sought immediate employment in Missouri and were unable to apply for jobs upon graduation. Students had to wait for approval of degree completion from the University, approval of eligibility to take the RD exam from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and then register to take the exam, take it, and wait for paperwork to submit for licensure (~8 weeks depending on study time). During this time I know many students who would have liked to have been working in Missouri. Some students left the state for other positions.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EMMA HUBBARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: emmahubbard44@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2023 4:42 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Emma Hubbard and I am currently a dietetic intern at Saint Louis University. In just a few months, I will be a Registered Dietitian, or RD. RDs are the food and nutrition experts. To become an RD, we complete: a bachelor's degree through an accredited program, supervised practice hours, pass a national exam, and participate in continuing education each year to stay informed and maintain credentialing. I support of HB 845 and HB 873, which would grant temporary licensure to new graduates. This would allow us to be hired right after completing our supervised hours and work under the supervision of a licensed RDN until we can take our RD exam and apply for licensure. This is important for me as a soon to be new graduate, as the exam and licensure process can take months to complete. Unless this bill passes, I will not be able to work in the field until that process is complete, despite having all of the necessary knowledge and education. Coming out of a full-time, year-long unpaid internship, it is important to me that I am able to get a job and start working as soon as possible. Many other professions have this temporary licensure in place, and it will help protect the license of RDN/RD so there isn't confusion between a registered dietitian, and a new grad who has not taken the exam yet. As many entities are currently short-staffed for dietitian positions, this bill would also alleviate workload of already practicing dietitians and ensure needs of patients/clients are being met through adequate staffing of dietetic professionals. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JOEL RAMDIAL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-587-1180	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
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CITY: CAPE GIRARDEAU		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63701
EMAIL: jramdial@semo.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/28/2023 8:28 AM	

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Members of the Professional Registration and Licensing Committee, I am writing this testimony in support of HB 845 and HB 873 as the President of the Missouri Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, a Program Director of a Graduate Program in Nutrition and Dietetics who awards verification statements that are required for students to become eligible for the Registration Examination for Dietitians, and as a Licensed Registered Dietitian who went through the rigorous education, registration, and licensing process. The current Dietitian Practice Act only protects Registered Dietitians who have received their license, and students who are practicing under the supervision of a Licensed, Registered Dietitian. House Bills 845 and 873 provide essential temporary licensure coverage for graduates of accredited academic dietetic programs between the day they graduate and the day they pass their credentialing examination. The current gap in licensure protection places a large burden on graduates attempting to enter the work force. The entire process to become licensed after a student completes an accredited Dietetic Internship or Graduate Program in Nutrition and Dietetics can take months. This includes passing the registration examination, applying for a license, and receiving a license. If any step in that lengthy process does not occur as planned or if there is a delay, the process is slowed and causes delays for these graduates to gain employment. This gap also places a burden on employers of Dietitians, who cannot allow non-licensed Registered Dietitians to perform many of their expected job duties. Many employers are now refusing to hire new graduates until they are fully licensed from fear of penalty. Employers rely on graduates of academic programs as a source of candidates, but due to the unpredictable timeline for how long it will take a graduate to pass the registration examination and receive his or her license, it is not feasible for an employer to hire a graduate and hold the position for several months until the license is granted. On behalf of the Dietitians and Dietetic Students in the great state of Missouri, I ask you to please support this bill. It is a logical, necessary update to our state's licensure laws that not only helps employers, students, and graduates, but also helps your constituents receive better care. As you likely know, being a customer or patient in a short-staffed operation typically results in a frustrating delay in care. Providing temporary licensure helps qualified graduates enter the work force and employers to fill staffing needs. By supporting the passage of HB 845 and HB 873, you are also supporting your local healthcare facilities, dietetic students and faculty, and any constituent who needs access to care from a Licensed, Registered Dietitian. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like more information about the contents of this testimony. Sincerely, Joel Ramdial, EdD, RD, LDPresident, Missouri Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics 2022-2023. jramdial@semo.edu



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KAITLYN HENSLEE		PHONE NUMBER:
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EMAIL: katiehenslee37@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2023 4:24 PM
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Hi, my name is Katie and I am a dietetic intern at St. Louis University. I'm getting my masters degree and am in the last stage of my education before becoming a Registered Dietitian. There are 2 bills that directly affect my ability to get a job and make money following my graduation in August. HB 845 and HB 873 are set to be presented to you all next week, and your support would be greatly appreciated. These bills allow us to receive temporary licensure while waiting for our license to be approved, that way we can work and get paid. We have gotten our bachelor's degree, master's degree, and completed 1000 hours of supervised practice before taking the RD exam. Other professions such as nursing and PT already have the ability to receive temporary licensure, and allowing this for us makes perfect sense. Please support these bills and help us to get paid after graduation.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KAREN E DERRICK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
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CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: derrickk@missouri.edu	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2023 12:41 PM
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I'm Karen Derrick, Clinical Nutrition Manager at MU Health Care. I am testifying in support of HB 873 & HB 845 to approve temporary licensure for dietitians. The temporary licensure will be helpful for hiring RD eligible dietitians. As manager of the dietitians for MU Health Care, we experienced a dietitian shortage over the past year with up to 4 open positions at a time. One of our dietitian applicants, graduated from a dietetics program in December and had to wait over 3 months to receive her MO dietitian license. This made her ineligible to accept one of our dietitian positions in the pediatric area at MU Health Care. During her internship, she received special training in pediatrics. During this wait time, we were forced to move dietitians out of their usual coverage areas to care for patients in pediatrics. This is just 1 example of how our ability to meet the nutritional needs of our patients was challenged and could have been prevented with a temporary licensure allowance for dietitians. Dietitians are responsible for writing nutrition prescriptions for tube feedings, parenteral nutrition and helping cure malnutrition. You should have two physician letters regarding how our dietitian shortage this past year impacted our neonatal ICU nutrition care as well as our special needs kids seen in outpatient clinics. Dietitians make a difference in saving lives and improving health, all while preventing greater complications as well as helping to avoid additional health care costs. Thank you for your time.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LAURA SELBY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: lselby@sgcmh.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2023 2:58 PM
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My name is Laura Selby and I am a Registered and Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist from Ste. Genevieve County where my role is vast as a dietitian for my community and healthcare system. I am a member of the Missouri Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (MOAND). I am reaching out today seeking support for HB 845 and HB 873. Both bills are identical and seek to add a "temporary permit" for new graduates to work until they take the national registered dietitian exam and apply for licensure. Our current licensure law does not allow anyone to call themselves a dietitian (or practice as a dietitian) unless they are licensed. Many other professions have "temporary licensure" and this was merely an oversight in the licensure law for dietitians. All new grads would be working under a supervised licensed RD/RDN until they pass the exam. This temporary permit would help protect the public so there is no confusion between a registered dietitian and a new grad who has not yet taken the exam. MOAND is committed to maintaining the highest professional standards, optimizing the health of Missourians through food and nutrition, promoting sound nutrition information to the public, and monitoring and responding to issues that have food, nutrition, and health implications. MOAND is ready and willing to lend our expertise relating to nutrition issues (such as obesity, school food service, health care reform, eating disorders, diabetes, etc.) by assisting you with constituency questions and issues, offering testimony for legislation, and/or serving on committees, boards, or task forces throughout the state. If you are interested in utilizing our expertise, a MOAND policy representative can reach out to you or you can visit our website at www.eatrightmissouri.org Thank you for your time and service to the state of Missouri! Sincerely, Laura Selby



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: LORIE ANN BOURNE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-647-8727
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS		TITLE: PRESIDENT-ELECT MOAND
ADDRESS: 607 E 5TH ST		
CITY: ROLLA	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65401
EMAIL: lbourne@phelpshealth.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/27/2023 9:28 AM

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My name is Lorie Bourne. I am president-elect of the Missouri Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and a Licensed, Registered Dietitian in the State of MO working for Phelps Health in Rolla, MO for the past 15 years. I am testifying in favor of HB 845 and HB 873 which would provide a temporary license for MO dietitians to perform work while waiting to pass the Registration exam and apply for a professional license. We recently hired a new graduate dietitian at Phelps Health that we had to lay off because she did not pass the registration exam on her first try. There is no provision in our current state regulations that allows them to perform work while waiting 45 days to retake the exam. This bill will allow MO dietitians to perform work for a limited time while they obtain their credentials. I am in favor of HB 845 and HB 873.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARIA ESPEJO SERRANO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: espejonomia8@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2023 4:25 PM
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Hello, my name is Maria Serrano. Currently I'm a dietetic intern and future registered dietitian. As a dietitian, I would be able to advise and counsel the general public on food and nutrition, explain nutrition issues to clients and assess the dietary and health needs of clients. I am here to talk to you about HB 845 & 873. Currently when we finish school we aren't allowed to work until we pass our exam. If this house bill passes, we'll be able to work with a temporary license and help/serve people/our community.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RANDY SCHERR		PHONE NUMBER: 573-636-6200	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETITICS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 101 EAST HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2023 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SOPHIA FINDER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: sophia.finder@logan.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/29/2023 4:13 PM
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Please consider supporting this bill. I am a Registered Dietitian working in higher education. I work at Logan University in the Applied Nutrition and Dietetics program. There is a significant shortage of Registered Dietitians in the St. Louis area. And my graduates cannot be hired because of the language of this law. At the same time hiring managers can't meet the needs of the patients that they serve. Please support this bill! Thank you, Sophia Finder, MEd, RD, LD