



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1961		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY BOLLAM		PHONE NUMBER: 314-833-0860	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DININGRD		TITLE: VICE PRESIDENT, STRATEGY	
ADDRESS: 1650 DES PERES ROAD, SUITE 210			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63131
EMAIL: ABollam@DiningRD.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 2:15 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

**Dietitian Licensure Compact
Submitted on Behalf of DiningRD**

Chair and Members of the Committee,

DiningRD respectfully submits this written testimony in strong support of House Bill 1961, which would adopt the Dietitian Licensure Compact in the state of Missouri.

DiningRD is a Missouri-based healthcare company founded in 1994. We provide registered dietitian services and foodservice support to long-term care, senior living, and post-acute care providers, including communities across Missouri. Our work supports some of the most vulnerable populations in the healthcare system, where access to timely, qualified nutrition care is essential to resident health, safety, and regulatory compliance.

In long-term care and post-acute settings, registered dietitians play a critical role in preventing and treating malnutrition, managing chronic disease, ensuring swallowing safety, and supporting quality outcomes. When access to dietitians is delayed or inconsistent, residents face increased health risks, and providers experience operational strain.

Missouri, like many states, is experiencing a shortage of qualified dietitians—particularly in rural areas and specialized care settings. Current state-by-state licensure requirements can create unnecessary delays in deploying dietitians who are already licensed, qualified, and in good standing in another state. These barriers hinder continuity of care, slow hiring, and limit provider capacity to meet resident needs.

House Bill 1961 offers a responsible and modern solution. The Dietitian Licensure Compact allows licensed dietitians to practice across state lines under a compact privilege while fully preserving Missouri’s authority to regulate practice, enforce standards, and protect the public. The Compact does not lower licensure standards or diminish state oversight. Dietitians practicing in Missouri under the Compact must comply with Missouri laws and regulations, and the state retains full disciplinary authority.

HB 1961 also includes provisions for temporary licensure, allowing qualified graduates—who have completed all education and supervised practice requirements—to work under appropriate supervision

while awaiting or retaking the national registration exam. This provision supports workforce continuity, protects patient safety, and prevents the unnecessary loss of trained professionals during a critical transition period.

As a Missouri employer, DiningRD strongly supports policies that strengthen the healthcare workforce while maintaining high standards of care. HB 1961 improves workforce flexibility, reduces administrative burden, and helps Missouri-based organizations remain competitive—without compromising public protection.

Healthcare delivery is increasingly team-based, technology-enabled, and regional in nature. Many healthcare professionals already benefit from licensure compacts. HB 1961 ensures dietitians can practice within this modern framework, improving access to care for Missourians while preserving the integrity of professional licensure.

For these reasons, DiningRD respectfully urges the Committee to support House Bill 1961.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Respectfully submitted,
Amy Bollam, RDN LD MPS
Vice President of Strategy for DiningRD**

Health Technologies, Inc. dba DiningRD - Founded 1994, St. Louis, Missouri



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY BOLLAM		PHONE NUMBER: 800-544-3059	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES DBA DININGRD		TITLE: VP STRATEGY	
ADDRESS: 1650 DES PERES ROAD SUITE 210			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63131
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY CONAWAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 1:36 PM	

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I support establishing a Dietitian Licensure Compact and the Dietitian Licensure Compact Commission.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ANGELA FRANKLIN, MS, RD, LD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 7:43 AM
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As a Dietetic Internship Director, I see firsthand the enthusiasm and dedication that new dietitians bring to the field of nutrition and dietetics. Each year, graduates complete more than five years of advanced education and rigorous training, eager to begin their careers as valued members of our healthcare teams. They are ready to earn a salary, apply their skills, and make a meaningful impact on patient care.

Unfortunately, the limitations of our current licensure process prevent these qualified individuals from entering the workforce immediately. This delay dampens their enthusiasm, creates unnecessary frustration, and stalls the progression of their careers. We must allow these new dietitians to work without unnecessary barriers so they can continue to develop their expertise and promote the health and well-being of Missouri citizens.

The need is urgent. Like many healthcare professions, the field of nutrition and dietetics is experiencing a significant workforce shortage. Across Missouri, there are numerous open dietitian positions, leaving gaps in care and limiting access for our citizens. These positions could be filled by graduates who are fully trained and prepared, yet they remain sidelined while waiting for registration and licensure to be finalized. If we do not act, we risk losing these professionals to other states—further worsening shortages and reducing access to care in Missouri.

I strongly encourage your support of this bill. By removing unnecessary delays, we can strengthen our healthcare system, retain talent, and ensure that Missouri citizens receive the nutrition care they need.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 11:21 PM	
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I am in Support of this Bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ASHLEY VAN DOREN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 3:19 PM
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Please support this bill to allow dietitians licensed in Missouri to practice and streamline licensing.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENDA ROLING		PHONE NUMBER: 573-636-2822	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS		TITLE: MOAND CONSULTANT	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1543			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: broling@swllc.us.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 1:51 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROLYN SKELTON		PHONE NUMBER: 816-425-3220	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: WELLNESS 4 PREVENTION LLC		TITLE: OWNER	
ADDRESS: 1800 NW SHAMROCK COURT			
CITY: LEE'S SUMMIT		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64081
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROLYN SKELTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 1:43 PM	
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Testimony regarding HB1961: Dietitian Licensure Compact

Date: January 13, 2026

To: Members of the Economic Development Committee

From: Carolyn Skelton, MS, RDN, LD

Good morning, Mr./Madam Chair and members of the Committee.

My name is Carolyn Skelton. I reside in Lee’s Summit, Missouri, and I am a licensed Dietitian in both Missouri and Kansas, a certified Exercise Physiologist, and a proud veteran of the United States Navy. I am the owner of Wellness 4 Prevention, LLC, a virtual private practice specializing in telehealth for Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) and Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES). I have been dedicated to the field of chronic disease prevention since 1998.

I am here today to testify in strong support of HB1961.

As a small business owner, I seek to expand my virtual services to reach more patients who need specialized nutritional care. However, the current state-by-state licensure process is a significant barrier. The administrative burden and costs associated with maintaining individual licenses in multiple jurisdictions are cumbersome and stifle the growth of telehealth.

Furthermore, my perspective as a Navy Veteran gives me a unique understanding of the challenges faced by military families. Frequent moves and varying state requirements often force military spouses in professional fields to pause their careers or navigate a bureaucratic maze to continue working. This compact would provide the portability necessary to support our military families and ensure continuity of care.

The healthcare landscape is evolving. More Dietitians are offering virtual services, providing patients with the convenience of receiving life-changing Medical Nutrition Therapy and Diabetes Education from the safety and comfort of their own homes. HB1961 will modernize our profession, increase access to care for Missourians, and support the practitioners who serve them.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to share my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHANCE HEPOLA		PHONE NUMBER: 580-235-6751	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: COX HEALTH		TITLE: GOVERNMENT RELATIONS MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 3801 S NATIONAL AVE			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65807
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CONNIE DIEKMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 9:46 AM	

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

Good morning! I am Connie Diekman, a Registered Dietitian (RD), Food and Nutrition Consultant in St Louis and a Former President of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. HB 1961 is an important bill for dietitians and for Missourians. HB 1961 allows for establishment of the Dietitian Licensure Compact which will help to increase access to RD's by allowing RD's in other states to become licensed to practice in Missouri. Access to RD's in some areas of Missouri is limited and the Compact would ensure that every Missourian could benefit from the services of an RD, no matter where they live. In addition to the Compact this bill allows for temporary licensure for those who have not yet take the Registered exam which is required to obtain the RD credential. This exam can only be taken upon graduation. Many new graduates need to have employment upon graduation therefore the temporary license would allow them to have a job while waiting to take and pass the exam. Allowing new grads to obtain a temporary license will help keep them working in Missouri, rather than leaving the state to work in a state that has temporary licensure. Thank You for your time.
 Connie Diekman, M.Ed., RD, LD, FADA, FAND



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: COURTNEY WATRING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 9:11 PM
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I am in support of this bill. As a dietitian, licensing in multiple states is costly and timely and affects supporting American citizens. I work solely with patients that have Eating Disorders ages 5-75. Getting increase access to support as many people as possible is extremely important. The passing of this bill to make a compact license would be incredibly beneficial.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH ANN FREEMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 3:07 PM	
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Please support this bill to allow dietitians licensed in Missouri to practice and streamline licensing.



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WITNESS NAME			
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WITNESS NAME: ERIS ROLVES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 6:56 AM	
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This bill is advantageous for both registered dietitians and the public alike, allowing MO dietitians to serve more people without the barrier of needing to obtain individual state licensure. It will also allow our students to hit the ground running by obtaining even more hands-on experience than their training already provides, through employment. New dietitians who work under temporary licensure first will be even more confident and capable once they become eligible for independent practice and full licensure - as opposed to waiting for full licensure to practice at all. Thank you for your consideration!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GINGER MEYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 2:52 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HANNA WAGONER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:14 PM
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We do so much as dietitians!!! I feel like we are not recognized for all that we can do. Food and nutrition is important to improve the quality of lives of Missourians!



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HANNAH CHAMBERLAND		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 3:31 PM

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My name is Hannah Chamberland, and I am a dietetics student in Missouri. I appreciate the opportunity to speak in strong support of House Bill 1961.

As a student training to provide evidence-based medical nutrition therapy, I see how integral registered dietitians are to patient care across the healthcare continuum. Nutrition is a critical component in the prevention and management of chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, gastrointestinal disorders, and malnutrition. House Bill 1961 would help ensure that patients across Missouri have timely access to qualified nutrition professionals who can support these medical needs.

The multi-state dietitian licensure compact would expand access to care by allowing registered dietitians to serve patients across state lines, which is especially important for rural and underserved communities where healthcare shortages already exist. Improved access means patients can receive consistent, medically appropriate nutrition care without delays or disruptions in treatment.

I also strongly support the provision allowing temporary licensure privileges for new graduates under supervision. This pathway allows newly trained dietitians to begin working sooner under appropriate oversight, helping healthcare teams meet patient needs while maintaining safety and professional standards. Reducing delays in workforce entry ultimately benefits patients by increasing availability of nutrition services in hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, and community settings.

House Bill 1961 supports students, strengthens Missouri’s healthcare workforce, and most importantly, improves patient access to medically necessary nutrition care. I respectfully urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration



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WITNESS NAME		
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WITNESS NAME: HANNAH SANTONI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:12 AM
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Hello,

I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist currently based in Ohio, though I grew up in Missouri and plan to return. I work in a telehealth-based practice, where state licensure laws directly affect the communities I am able to serve.

Dietitians complete rigorous training, including a master's degree and more than 1,200 hours of supervised practice. These increasing requirements have contributed to a decline in new professionals entering the field, despite a growing and urgent demand for nutrition services. If Missouri were to join the Dietitian Licensure Compact Commission, it would significantly expand access to dietitian services for Missourians—particularly at a time when nutrition therapy is critically needed.

I respectfully urge you to support expanded access to healthcare for our communities by joining the Dietitian Licensure Compact Commission. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Hannah



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER HEBERLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 1:58 PM
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I support this bill for dietitian licensure restrictions



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: HEIDI WILLIAMS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 8:37 PM
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I am in favor for the licensure compact across the United States for Registered Dietitians. I have been a dietitian for 15 years and making nutrition as accessible as possible to individuals to maintain their health is key. Not to mention many of my clients move and after years of working together and establishing a relationship it would be more conducive to their care to continue to work together. I work with a lot of athletes and individuals with eating disorders who need nutrition care. I cannot stress enough how important it is to limit barriers for individuals to be able to access medical nutrition therapy. Because of licensure laws I have had clients struggle in their eating disorder recovery and relapse because they moved out of state to a place that did not have local care. This is imperative to improve health outcomes.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JACOB RISK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 10:30 AM	
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I have been a Registered Dietitian for nearly 20 years. The Bill proposed would strengthen Dietitian practice in the State for current and future licensed professionals.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JEAN HOWARD		PHONE NUMBER: 573-310-9560	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MO ACADEMY OF NUTRITION & DIETETICS		TITLE: RDN LD	
ADDRESS: 1954 SHADY CREEK			
CITY: AUXVASSE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65231
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER CUDDEBACK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 9:51 PM
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As a Registered and Licensed Dietitian in the state of Missouri it is important to be able to provide care to patients/clients in neighboring states.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KELLY HINDS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 3:23 PM	
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I support and ask that this bill be passed for Dietitian Licensure Compact as not doing so will impede our ability to provide quality, timely, affordable care to patients.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1961		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: KOMAL PATEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:16 PM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1961		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: LINDA S. MORTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 7:22 AM	
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I am a Registered, licensed dietitian that supports this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: LORIE ANN BOURNE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 7:22 AM
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I believe this bill will get dietitians into the work force earlier and help employers get more dietitians hired.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: MARIELLE BRINGENBERG		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 10:59 PM
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I am a clinical nutrition manager at a St Louis hospital, responsible for 11 inpatient and outpatient staff. At this time, we are short staffed and struggling to hire positions. It is very lucky that we are able to have a remote dietitian work for us, even though she lives in another state and had to apply for MO licensure separately. We do have an outpatient position open that may need to obtain multiple state licenses, which can be a huge hassle. Often we get a fantastic intern who comes through that we want to hire right away - even if they still would need supervision - but since we cannot close a deal until they have license, we lose them. We need to lower such barriers to bringing in qualified staff to provide patient care.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1961		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: MARILYN CLAGGETT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 1:14 PM
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Temporary licensure is crucial to meet needs of hospitals and other employers of dietitians with new graduates while giving graduates time to prepare for permanent licensure.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: MARY BETH OHLMS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 1:52 PM
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I am writing in support of HB 1961. I've been a registered dietitian for 46 years, working in clinical dietetics and then in the education of dietetic students through Fontbonne University as Assistant Professor. Dietetics students are eager to enter the workforce after graduation, especially since they must complete a masters degree. HB 1961 would expedite that entry by allowing them to work while awaiting their licensure application approval. It will also permit dietitians to work across state borders without the burden of submitting resumes, transcripts, and fees for licensure to that state's licensing board. This is also significant, especially in the state of Missouri, since many of my colleagues over the years live in Illinois, but work in Missouri or vice versa. This also occurs in the western and southwestern parts of our state. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: MCKENZIE DERENNAUX		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 1:36 PM
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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Dietetic Licensure Compact. This legislation, which would allow licensed dietitians to practice across state lines within Compact member states, represents a critical advancement for the profession and for the individuals and communities we serve.

I currently practice as a virtual outpatient dietitian, providing nutrition counseling and support to clients across the United States. At present, I hold active licensure in three states, with a fourth license under review and additional applications anticipated as my practice continues to expand. While multi-state licensure is achievable, the process is both financially burdensome and significantly time-consuming. Establishing a licensure compact would remove unnecessary administrative barriers, allowing dietitians to practice more efficiently while maintaining high professional standards. Ultimately, this increased mobility and access to care would directly benefit the health and well-being of the American public.

I also fully support the inclusion of a nonrenewable temporary license for dietetic graduate students, permitting them to practice under the supervision of a dietitian licensed in this state. This provision would provide aspiring dietitians with a critical opportunity to gain meaningful, hands-on experience in their chosen area of dietetics while earning income. After completing six months of full-time, unpaid supervised practice, this pathway would help alleviate financial strain, support workforce entry, and strengthen the future of the profession without compromising patient safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for your consideration of this important legislation. I strongly support the proposed bill and believe it represents a significant step forward for dietitians nationwide. Our collective goal is to serve the citizens of the United States with the highest level of efficiency, accessibility, and professional excellence possible.

Respectfully,
 McKenzie DeRennaux, MA, RD, LD



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: NICOLE WILDE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 7:22 PM	
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Please support this bill to allow dietitians licensed in Missouri to practice and streamline licensing.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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: RACHAEL KING		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 10:56 PM
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I support HB 1961 to join the dietitian license compact and allow provisional licensure to new graduates. This will help protect Missourians from dietitian malpractice, while increasing the available workforce.



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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: ROBIN HARWELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 3:18 PM	
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Thank you Ms. Peters for sponsoring this bill to allow multi-state RD licensure compact as well as temporary licensure privileges for new grads with supervision. There is such a shortage of registered dietitians in Missouri, and this bill is important for Missourians to have education by qualified nutrition experts for improved health.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SANDRA DREYER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-592-2055	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FULTON STATE HOSPITAL		TITLE: DIETETIC SERVICES COORDINATOR-CLINICAL SERVICES	
ADDRESS: 707 JEFFERSON STREET			
CITY: FULTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65251
EMAIL: sandra.dreyer@dmh.mo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 7:38 PM	
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As a supervisor at Fulton State Hospital, I hired a new master's graduate from the University of Missouri-Columbia Nutrition and Dietetics program. He graduated in May 2025. He was hired June 1, 2025. It was July 30, 2025, before he could pass national RD exam and receive Missouri licensure. He did train during these two months with other dietitians, yet other dietitians had to continue additional dietitian coverage of 100 additional clients for two more months. A peer RD/LD and I as his supervisor RD/LD were qualified and willing to review and co-sign his documentation during these two months had HB 1961 been in place.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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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: SARAH GLEASON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 9:37 AM
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As a former business owner, recently retired, I witnessed first hand the issues involved if our MO licensed dietitians were not able to be easily licensed in other states. From a financial standpoint, we were losing money to other dietitians who lived OUT of state and yet had a MO license. It was in that out of state business' best interest to be licensed in as many states as possible. For example: Oregon. The Blue Cross Blue Shield reimbursement rate is nearly THREE TIMES what we get reimbursed in MO. So, the dietitian who LIVES in Oregon (and licensed in MO) can meet virtually with people who live in MO. She will get 3x the pay that dietitians in MO receive as she is able to send in an insurance claim through the state of OR. This "steals" clients from us in MO. With that, we the dietitians who live and work and pay taxes in MO need to have a greater volume of people to have as potential patients. We need to be able to market ourselves to out of state patients to increase volume to keep our business afloat. Missouri has one of the lowest reimbursement rates for a few insurance plans. If we can not increase our volume, dietitian practices will lose money and need to close doors.



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COMMITTEE: Economic Development		
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SHAILEE VARANASI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 4:30 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a clinical dietitian, I strongly support the Dietitian Licensure Compact because it is a critical step toward improving public access to high-quality nutrition care. By allowing qualified dietitians to practice across state lines without unnecessary administrative barriers, the compact ensures that patients especially those in underserved or rural areas receive timely, evidence-based nutrition services. This initiative maintains the integrity of state licensure and regulatory oversight, while creating a streamlined process for licensure portability, which is essential in today's healthcare environment where telehealth and interstate collaboration are increasingly common. Missouri's adoption of the compact through HB 397 and SB 412 would not only align our state with national progress but also strengthen our ability to meet growing healthcare demands. Fourteen states have already enacted this compact, demonstrating its viability and importance. Passing this legislation will empower dietitians to serve patients more effectively, reduce delays in care, and support continuity of services across state borders. I urge lawmakers to prioritize this effort in the 2026 legislative session and include provisions for temporary licensure for recent graduates, ensuring a robust and responsive dietetics workforce for the future.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: SHEILA J CHAPMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 1:33 PM	

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please support this bill to advance the process of billing & licensure for dietitians.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Economic Development			
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: SHELBY HIRSCHMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 9:26 PM	
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Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shelby Hirschman. I am a Registered Dietitian licensed in Missouri and the owner of Good Body Nutrition, a virtual nutrition practice based here in Missouri. I am writing in support of the Dietitian Licensure Compact.

My practice serves a very specific and underserved population: women, many from religious communities, who struggle with eating disorders, disordered eating, and body image. These women often seek out providers who understand both evidence-based eating disorder care and their spiritual or cultural framework. For many of them, that combination is rare.

Because of this niche, I regularly hear from women in other states who are desperate for help. Many have already tried local providers without success. Some are afraid to seek care in their own communities because of stigma. Others live in areas with no eating-disorder-trained dietitians at all.

Under our current licensure system, I am forced to turn many of these women away unless I hold a separate license in their state. Over the last few years, I have invested a lot of time and money applying for, maintaining, and tracking multiple state licenses just to continue seeing patients who need ongoing care. That burden does not improve safety or quality of care, it simply creates administrative walls between patients and the providers best equipped to help them.

Eating disorders and disordered eating are not short-term problems. Continuity of care matters. When a patient moves across state lines for school, work, or family, I often cannot legally continue treating them, even though I know their medical history, their triggers, and their recovery plan. The result is disruption in care during moments when they are most vulnerable.

The Dietitian Licensure Compact would allow licensed professionals like me to practice across state lines while still being regulated, accountable, and held to high professional standards. It would reduce delays in care, increase access for underserved populations, and allow Missouri-based providers to reach more patients without unnecessary duplication of licensure.

Missouri already invests in training healthcare professionals. A compact allows those professionals to serve more people without leaving the state-- strengthening both patient access and our state's healthcare economy.

I strongly urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration