

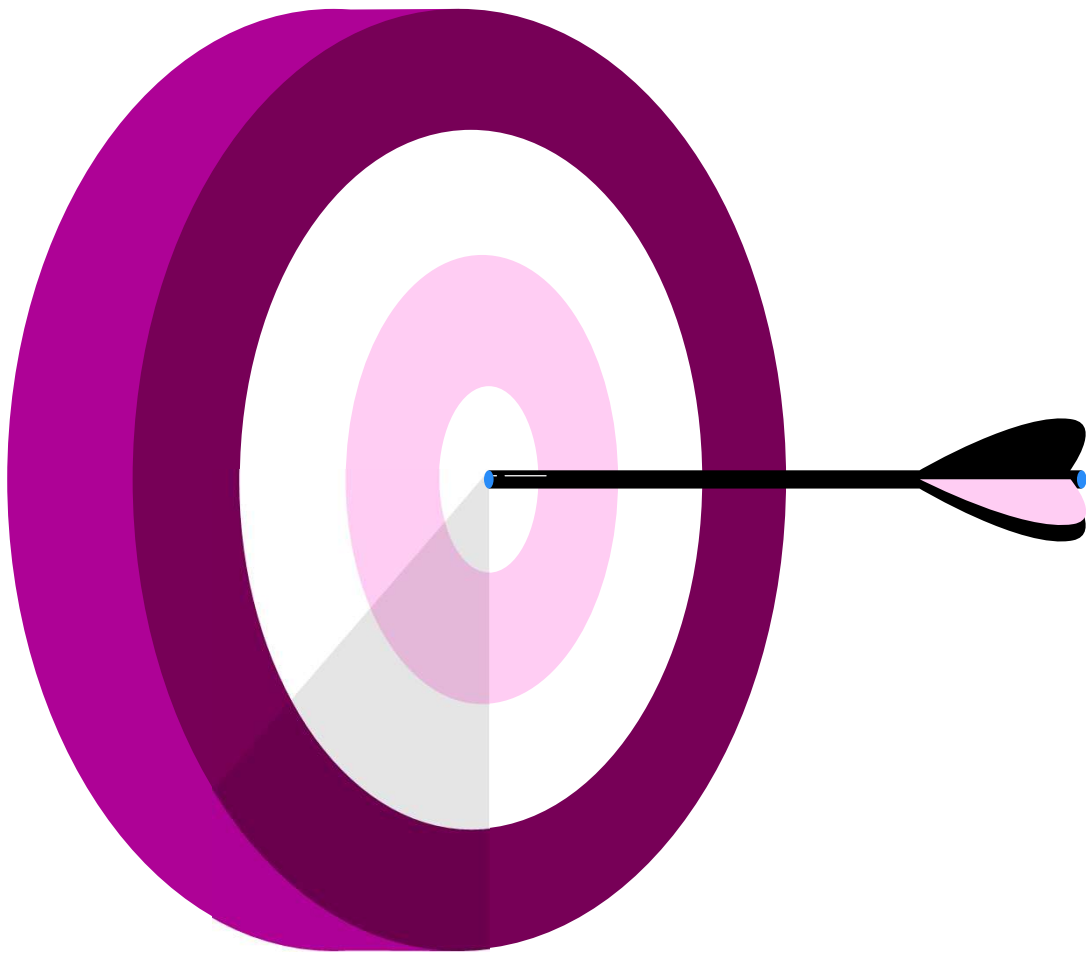


State Advocacy Day

March 26, 2025

Sheri Cordell, MA, RDN, LDN
State Policy Representative
North Carolina Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics





The Goal...

...enhance the understanding of the critical role RDNs and NDTRs play in the health and well-being of every American.

Objectives



- Understand the Academy's Future State Vision and Fiscal Year 2025 Priorities
- Gain Insight into Federal and North Carolina Policy Initiatives
- Learn How to Engage in Advocacy Efforts

Academy's Future State Vision

- Become a leading voice in advocacy and public policy
- Gain recognition as a STEM profession
- Be known by the public and health care professionals as the foremost experts in food and nutrition
- Operate with excellence across all areas of our work



Academy's Fiscal Year 2025 Priorities

- **FOCUS AREA: Advocacy**

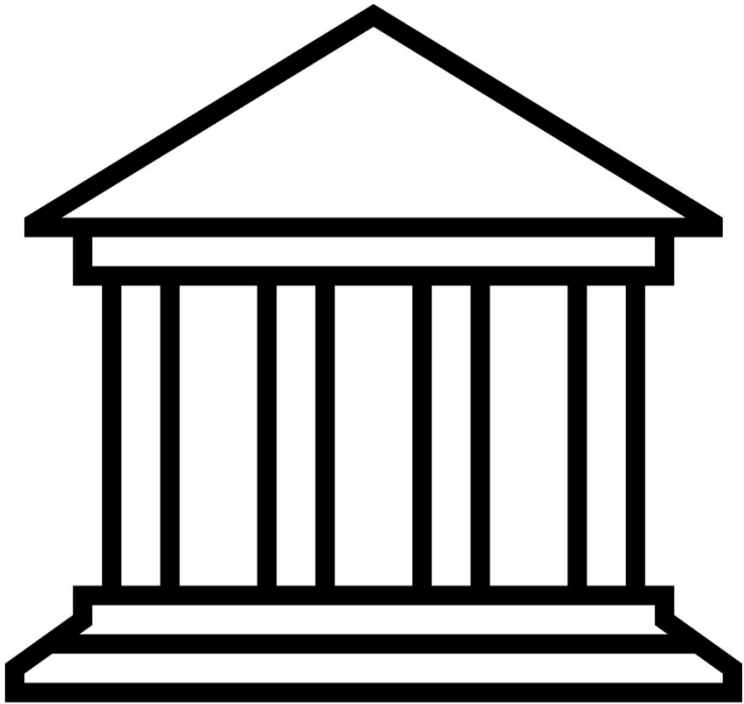
- Invest in and fully deploy the resources necessary to increase access to Medical Nutrition Therapy
- Continue to support the licensure compact to ensure practice across state lines

- FOCUS AREA: Member/Interprofessional Education

- FOCUS AREA: Public, Research and Media

- FOCUS AREA: Organizational/Structural Barriers to Sustained Growth and Relevance





Federal Legislation

Overview: **Federal** Legislation

Medical Nutrition Therapy Act

Treat and Reduce Obesity Act

Older Americans Act

Farm Bill Advocacy

Regulatory Focus Areas

Payment Advocacy



Medical Nutrition Therapy Act

Currently, Medicare Part B only covers outpatient MNT for:

Diabetes

Renal disease

Post-kidney transplant

Additionally, qualified providers such as nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, clinical nurse specialists and psychologists are barred from directly referring their patients to MNT services.

Medical Nutrition Therapy Act

Amends the Social Security Act to provide Medicare Part B coverage of outpatient MNT for:

Prediabetes	Obesity
High blood pressure	High cholesterol
Malnutrition	Eating disorders
Cancer	GI disease (including celiac disease)
Cardiovascular disease	HIV/AIDS

Treat and Reduce Obesity Act

CONGRESS.GOV Advanced Searches Browse Search Tools Support Sign In

Legislation Congressional Record Committees Members

Legislation Examples: hr5, sres9, "health care" MORE OPTIONS

Home > Legislation > 118th Congress > H.R.4818 Citation Subscribe Share/Save Site Feedback

H.R.4818 - Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2023

118th Congress (2023-2024)

BILL Hide Overview

Sponsor: [Rep. Wenstrup, Brad R., \[R-OH-2\]](#) (Introduced 07/20/2023)

Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

Committee Meetings: [06/27/24 10:00AM](#) [09/19/23 10:00AM](#)

Latest Action: House - 12/27/2024 Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Ways and Means. H. Rept. 118-959, Part I. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker: Introduced

More on This Bill

[Constitutional Authority and Single Subject Statements](#)

[CBO Cost Estimates \[0\]](#)

Subject — Policy Area:

Health

[View subjects >>](#)

Older Americans Act

The screenshot shows the CONGRESS.GOV website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for "Advanced Searches" and "Browse". On the right, there are links for "Search Tools", "Support", and "Sign In". Below these are links for "Legislation", "Congressional Record", "Committees", and "Members". A search bar is present with the text "Examples: hr5, sres9, 'health care'" and a search icon. Below the search bar is a "MORE OPTIONS" dropdown menu. The main content area shows the breadcrumb "Home > Legislation > 118th Congress > S.4776" and the title "S.4776 - Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2024" for the "118th Congress (2023-2024)". A "BILL" tab is active, and there is a "Hide Overview" button. The bill details include: Sponsor: Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT] (Introduced 07/25/2024); Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Committee Meetings: 07/31/24 10:00AM; Latest Action: House - 12/11/2024 Held at the desk. (All Actions); Tracker: Introduced (highlighted) and Passed Senate. On the right side, there are links for "Citation", "Subscribe", "Share/Save", and "Site Feedback". Below that, there is a "More on This Bill" section with a link to "CBO Cost Estimates [1]". At the bottom, there is a "Subject — Policy Area: Social Welfare" section with a link to "View subjects >>".

Farm Bill Advocacy

Advocate for a bill that:

- Maintains the integrity of nutrition assistance programs
- Ensures vital funding for nutrition education and research
- Improves marketplace demand and equitable access to nourishing food



Regulatory Initiatives

FDA:

- Front-of-package labeling
- “Healthy” claim
- Sodium reduction targets

USDA:

- Dietary Guidelines

USPSTF Recommendations:

- A/B-grade preventive services for insurance coverage

CMS:

- Value-based care models
- Medicare coverage of IBT for obesity
- Medicare Advantage



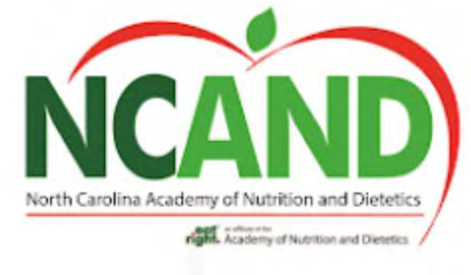
Payment Advocacy

- **Medicare Payment Reform & Payment Rate**
- **Healthcare Billing Codes**
 - CPT and HCPCS codes
 - CPT Editorial Panel
 - RVS Update Committee (RUC)





eat right.® Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics



State Legislation

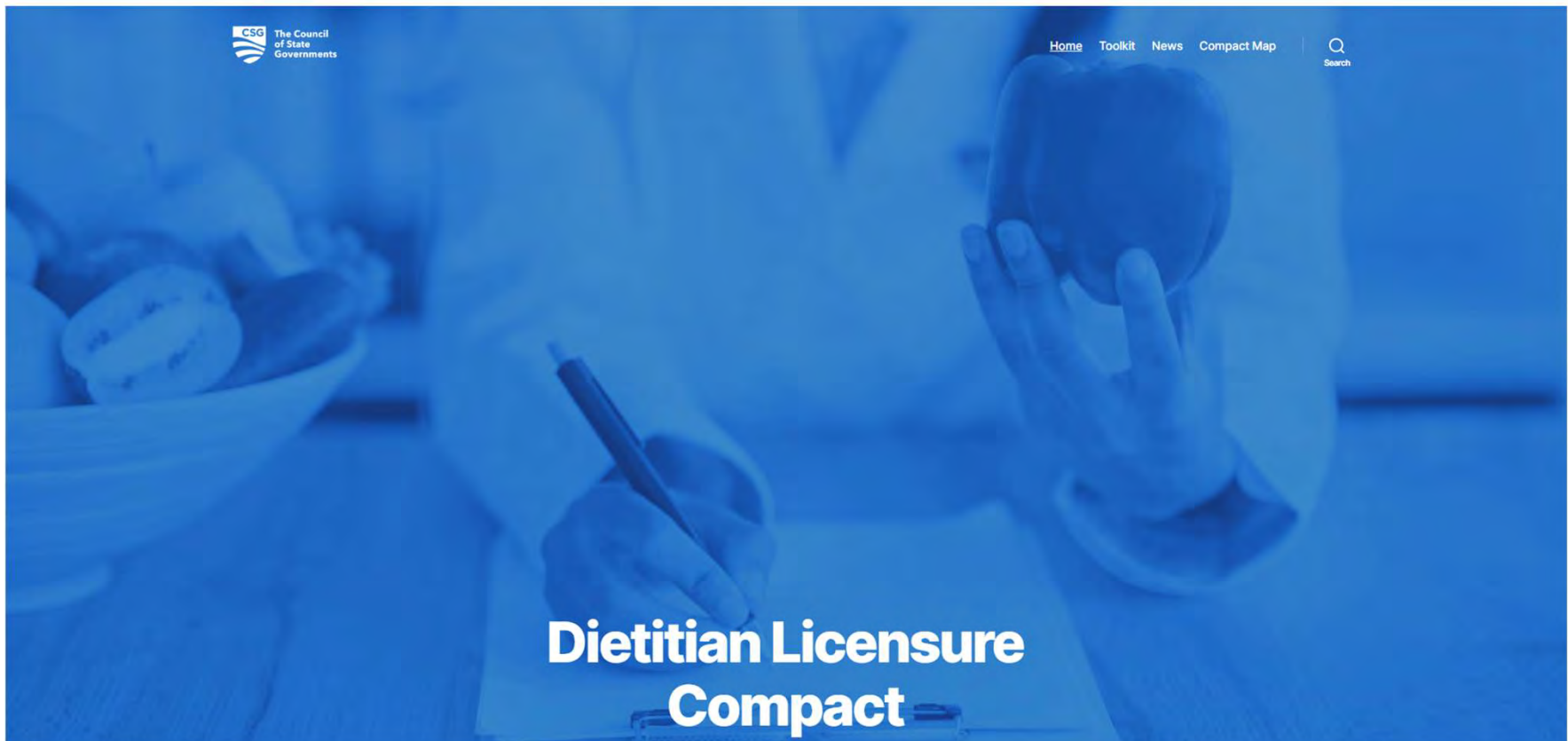
Overview: **State** Legislation

- Dietitian Licensure Compact
- School Meals for All NC



Dietitian Licensure Compact

DietitiansCompact.Org



States Advancing Compact Legislation in 2025

Indiana	Iowa	Georgia
Mississippi	Kansas	Idaho
Montana	Maine	Arkansas
Nevada	Missouri	Rhode Island
Kentucky	New Hampshire	Vermont
Utah	North Dakota	West Virginia
Wisconsin	South Dakota	Wyoming
Louisiana	Texas	
Oklahoma	South Carolina	

North Carolina Licensure Model Practice Act with Dual Pathway



- **Category A – RDN/LDN**
 - Category B – Provisional LDN (PLDN)
 - Category C & D – Non-RD LDN (still meet ASCEND requirements)
- **Category F – LN**
 - CNS – Certified Nutrition Specialist
 - DACBN – Diplomate of the American Clinical Board of Nutrition
 - Master’s or doctoral degree in nutrition or a master’s or doctoral degree in a field of clinical health care, at a regionally accredited institution that meets the minimum course requirements defined in N.C.G.S. § 90-357.5(c)(1); a Board approved 1000-hour supervised practice program that meets the statutory minimum competency requirements defined in N.C.G.S. § 90-357.5(c)(2) under the supervision of a professional provided in this section; and passed either the Certified Nutrition Specialist (CNS) exam or Diplomate of the American Clinical Board of Nutrition (DACBN) exam.

<https://www.ncbndn.org/apply-for-a-license>



Mission

Ensure that every child in every public school in North Carolina has access to breakfast and lunch at school at no cost to their families.



**NORTH CAROLINA
ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH**



**THE CENTER FOR
BLACK HEALTH & EQUITY**



UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

WHERE ARE WE NOW?



Reduced-Price Lunch Copay

The budget permanently eliminates the reduced-priced lunch copay.

Community Eligibility Provision Meal Incentive Program

The budget includes \$500,000 in recurring funds beginning in the 2023-24 fiscal year and \$6.3 million in recurring funds beginning in the 2024-25 fiscal year for a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Meal Incentive Program. This funding has increased access to no-cost meals to 90,000 students.

School Meal Debt

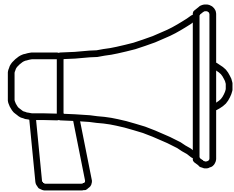
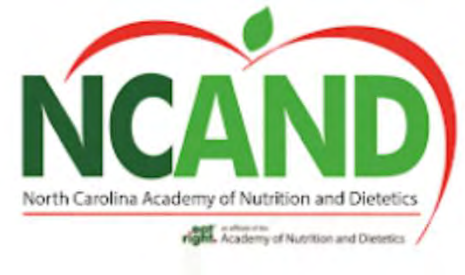
The budget also includes language that prohibits schools from withholding student records or keeping students from participating in graduation due to school meal debt.

TALKING POINTS

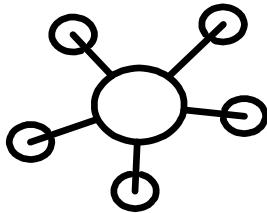


- Hungry kids can't learn.
- Food is the most important school supply.
- 81% of voters in NC support school meals for all.
- Eating breakfast at school is associated with lower rates of tardiness and fewer missed school days.
- School breakfast programs reduce behavioral referrals.
- Children who eat school breakfast consume more nutrients, leading to better long-term health outcomes.

How can you help?



Choose to be **informed**



Choose to be **engaged**



Choose to **act**

01

Choose to be **informed**

Get Involved with Advocacy



Take Action

Academy members are recognized for their contributions and influence in food, nutrition and health policy. Use these tools and resources so that your elected officials know your views—both as a voter and a nutrition and dietetics expert.

[Learn About >](#)



Federal Policy Initiatives

We work with policy leaders at every level of government to promote health and reduce the burden of chronic disease through nutrition services and interventions. Learn about the Academy's public policy priorities and current key initiatives.

[Learn About >](#)



Licensure

State professional licensing laws and our consumer protection efforts are for people to be able to identify and access qualified professionals who demonstrate the knowledge, skill and competency necessary to provide safe and ethical nutrition therapy.

[Learn About >](#)

Public Policy News

January 16, 2025

Action Items for Policy Leaders

Prepare to Lead: Required January 29 Training Webinar for PPCs and SPRs

Public policy coordinators (PPC) and state policy representatives (SPR) are expected to attend a webinar training on Wednesday, January 29 from noon to 1 p.m. Central time. This session will prepare policy leaders to deliver a ready-to-go presentation on the Academy's Fiscal Year 2025 policy priorities, accompanied by a handout for affiliate members, dietetics programs and other stakeholders. The webinar ensures consistent, impactful messaging and empowers leaders to advocate effectively during the busy 2025 legislative session. **If the affiliate PPC or SPR cannot attend, please designate another affiliate leader to participate.**

If you are a PPC or SPR and did not receive an invite with the meeting link, please email lwright@eat-right.org.

Sign-up here: https://AND.informz.net/AND/pages/Policy_Newsletter_enrollment

www.schoolmealsforallnc.org



PARTNERS

BLOG

RESOURCES

GET INVOLVED

ATTEND AN EVENT

TAKE ACTION

DONATE



No child should go hungry. Every child in every public school in North Carolina should have access to breakfast and lunch at school at no cost to their families.

02

Choose to be **engaged**

Affinity Groups



Licensure Initiatives Affinity Group

Meets the second Tuesday of every month from 3-4 p.m. (Eastern Time)

MNT Expansion Affinity Group

Meets the first Tuesday of every month from 3:30-4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Nutrition Security Affinity Group

Meets the first Wednesday of every month from 4-5 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Payment and Reimbursement Affinity Group

Meets the fourth Tuesday of every month, 2-3 p.m. (Eastern Time)

NCAND Public Policy Panel

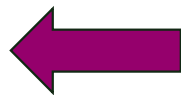


Federal

Public Policy Coordinators
Policy and Advocacy Leaders

State

State Policy Representatives
State Regulatory Specialists
Consumer Protection Coordinators



Nutrition Services Payment Specialists



03

Choose to **act**

Take Action!

[Home](#) > [Advocacy](#) > [Take Action](#) > Action Alerts

Action Alerts

Amplify the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' voice for better food, nutrition and health policies. Action alerts allow us to bring the Academy's policy issues to the attention of members of Congress and help to raise awareness and add legitimacy to a particular priority issue. Available to both Academy members and the public, it literally only takes a minute to support specific bills or topics, share your view with your elected officials and advocate for strong nutrition policy.

Action Alerts are announced via *Eat Right Weekly* and Latest News, posted to social media, shared with dietetic practice groups, member interest groups and affiliate associations, and may be emailed to all or some Academy members, depending on geographic location or specialty.

[Take Action](#)

ACTION CENTER

Urge Congress to Avoid the Impact of a Federal Shutdown, Extend Critical Waivers and Protect Nutrition Programs

[Campaigns](#) [Surveys](#)



Urge Congress to Avoid the Impact of a Federal Shutdown, Extend Critical Waivers and Protect Nutrition Programs

The federal government faces a potential shutdown unless a funding agreement is reached before March 14, 2025. Additionally, key health programs such as Medicare telehealth waivers, community health center funding, the Special Diabetes Program, and other vital health...

View Your Election Center

Enter your address to view voting resources and your officials & candidates

ZIP Code [+](#)

Sign Up for Alerts

Enter your information below to sign up

Advocate - Connect with Legislators

Find your legislators at: <https://www.ncleg.gov/findyourlegislators>

- Virtual or in-person meetings
- Email
- Social Media
- Town Halls



Advocate - Connect with Legislators

- Build credibility & relationships
 - Prepare
 - Introduce yourself as an RDN
 - Identify groups/organizations you represent
 - Find common ground
- Tell a story
- Back it up with facts & figures
- Be clear about the “Ask”
 - What can the policymaker do?
- Follow up



Advocate - Connect with Legislators

REMEMBER:

Policymakers are not experts in all policy matters.

Be a resource and educate your policymaker.

RDN's are the nutrition experts!



Resources



NCAND website – www.eatrightnc.org

- Recordings
 - School Meals for All NC info session
 - Dietitian Licensure Compact info session
 - How to Advocate
- Leave behinds for legislators
 - RD Everything You Need to Know
 - Access to MNT by RDNS is Good Policy
 - School Meals for All - 5 Reasons to Fund School Meals
 - School Meals for All - Academic Success
 - School Meals for All - Basics



Thank you!