

NEW YORK LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Legislation: S.B. 2231 (Dietetics Licensure)

Status: Just introduced; January 12th, 2017

Hearing/Vote: None yet

Points of Contact:

SEN. KENNETH P. LAVALLE

LEGISLATIVE AIDE: KELLY HENDRICKEN,

KHENDRICKSEN@NYSENATE.GOV

PHONE: (518) 455-3121

SEN. GEORGE A. AMEDORE, JR.

LEGISLATIVE AIDE: KAITLYN A. MACLEOD

KMACLEOD@NYSENATE.GOV

PHONE: (518) 455-2350

Analysis:

SB 2231 is a reintroduction of Senator Lavalle's previous dietetics legislation that carried over into 2017. It creates an onerous licensure law and excludes all holistic nutrition providers, while creating an exclusive scope of practice for dietitians.

Recommendations:

As with the others in New York, we should oppose this bill. The existing action alert for New York has been updated slightly.

SAMPLE LETTER TO SEND TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVE(S)

January 18, 2017

Dear _____:

As your constituent, I am writing to ask that you oppose S.B. 2231. This legislation would create significant barriers to providing consumers with nutrition counseling, education, and assessment by enacting a restrictive licensing requirement with no exemptions for holistic and alternative practitioners.

Under current law, only those seeking to use the titles Certified Dietician and Certified Nutritionist are required to seek and be approved for certification by the State Board for Dietetics and Nutrition. This law examines their credentials and certifies their use of said titles.

S.B. 2231 would create a burdensome licensure requirement by allowing only those who have studied specific education in nutrition and dietetics, completed a supervisory practice under a licensed dietician or nutritionist, to provide nutrition guidance, counseling, and assessment. This licensure would do nothing to improve the health of New Yorkers, increase choice, or reduce costs. Instead it will limit choice by narrowly defining who can provide nutrition services, and take away employment opportunities from existing providers who do not meet the narrow licensure requirements.

Certification works. It has worked in New York for many years, and there is very little - if any - harm to the public by allowing New Yorkers to choose the practitioner of their choice, and receive the care that they feel is best. I urge you to oppose S.B. 2231, and preserve competition in nutrition care in New York.

Sincerely,

(Your signature here)