**Impacts more than 3,000 Dietitians in Wisconsin**

**Support the Modernization of Nutrition Practice**

**Model Practice Act (LRB 0169P3)**

**Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT)**

- Individualized, evidence based nutrition including prescriptive therapeutic oral, enteral and parenteral regimens
- Cost-effective strategy for the prevention, treatment or management of nutrition disease states; and
- Promotes optimal outcomes to decrease length of stay, prevent complications & costly co-morbid conditions.

**The Purpose**

- Safeguards the health and welfare of Wisconsin citizens;
- Establishes educational standards for medical nutrition therapy providers;
- Professional regulation of persons engaged in the practice of dietetics and nutrition; and
- Supports the continuation of care and economic and professional growth using telehealth for interstate practice.

**The Proposed Bill:**

- Establishes two pathways of licensure of qualified nutrition care providers:
  - *Registered Dietitian Nutritionists, RDN*: degreed, credentialed nutritionists who completed 1,000+ hours of supervised practice and pass the National credentialing exam.
  - *Certain Other Nutritionists*: Certified Nutrition Specialists
- Protects the health of WI residents by clarifying who is qualified to provide medical nutrition therapy.
- Aligns professional regulation of RDNs in WI with neighboring states including, MN, IA, & IL.
- Permits nutrition, wellness and primary prevention providers to continue care, provided the services do not constitute medical nutrition therapy.
- Facilitates telehealth to provide WI citizens with access to continuous, safe and effective care and supports the economic development of under-resourced regions in WI.
THE PURPOSE

The practice of dietetics and nutrition, including the provision of medical nutrition therapy, in the State of WI is hereby declared to affect the public health, safety, and welfare and to be subject to regulation and control in the public interest.

It is further declared that the practice of dietetics and nutrition plays an important part in the attainment and maintenance of health and that it is in the public’s best interest that persons who present themselves as providers of nutrition care meet specific requirements and qualifications.

This Act shall be liberally construed to best carry out these objectives and purposes.

THERE ARE VAST DIFFERENCES IN NUTRITION EDUCATION AND TRAINING

THOSE QUALIFIED TO PROVIDE MNT

- **Met education requirements** from an accredited university with either: (a) Completion of a bachelor’s degree OR (b) Completion of a master’s or doctorate in nutrition as specified in the bill.

- **Completed supervised practice experience** that either: (a) Met the Accreditation Council’s rigorous standards through internships in a variety of clinical settings OR (b) a board-approved supervised practice experience of > 1,000 hours demonstrating competency in nutrition care and the provision of MNT.

- **Passed a comprehensive examination** from a certification program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.

- **Adheres to professional codes of ethics**.

THOSE NOT QUALIFIED TO PROVIDE MNT

- **Completed a market nutrition course** for fitness or health coaches to enhance their nutrition knowledge and earn various certificates, certifications, online diploma, or titles.

- **Obtained an unaccredited certificate or diploma**, which is insufficient to authorize practice of medical nutrition therapy in Wisconsin.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF MNT IS PROVIDED?

Individuals are permitted to express information, guidance or encouragement about food, lifestyle or dietary practices to the public generally and to any willing and competent adult listener directly without first obtaining a license so long as they do not hold themselves out as a dietitian nutritionist or nutritionist and they do not provide such information, guidance or encouragement as part of a professional-client relationship formed to assess individual nutritional needs and provide medical nutrition therapy to treat or manage a disease or medical condition.