Nutrition-Related Public Policy in Utah

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Speaker Disclosure

Current
Member, Consumer Protection and Licensure Subcommittee for the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics
State Policy Representative, Utah Academy
Policy & Advocacy Leader, CNM DPG
Reimbursement Representative, DNS DPG

Recent Past
President, Virginia Academy
Public Policy Panel, Virginia Academy
Constituent Liaison, Blue Ridge District Academy
Sponsorship Advisory Taskforce, Academy
Public Policy Objectives

After this presentation, each participant will be able to...

- Explain their role as a RDN, NDTR, or nutrition intern/student in nutrition-related legislation in Utah

- List 3 at least ways to be active in the Public Policy process
Public Policy

- Reasons to be involved
- How to get involved
- Understanding public policy
- Communicating with elected officials
- Take Action!
Audience Poll

How many of you have...

- Obtained Academy membership?
- Voted in an Academy election?
- Completed an action alert for the Academy?
- Met with a legislator (or their staff) about a nutrition-related issue?
- Attended a UT state legislative day (or other state)?
- Attended the Academy’s Public Policy Workshop?
- Held a leadership position for a dietetic association?
- Volunteered for an election campaign?
Public Policy - Reasons to be Involved
Public Policy - What’s in it for you?

Make new friends!

Learn new things

Enhance your career and future opportunities

Make an impact on your community you live and serve in
Why does public policy matter?

Strengthen your profession with a unified voice on critical issues

Educate your members of Congress and the Utah State Legislature about these issues and the value of your work for their constituents

The people who get them re-elected!
Why does public policy matter?

Represent RDNs/NDTRs as essential members of the interdisciplinary health care team

Communicate evidence-based nutrition science to protect the public

*If Dietetics is your profession, policy should be your passion!*
Why does public policy matter?

- Legislation impacts RDN practice and the health of Americans
- Referrals and reimbursements
- Funding/ grants/ student financial aid
- Occupational and facility licensing
Public Policy - How to get Involved
Getting Involved

How did I get involved in public policy?
Getting Involved

What did I learn when I first got involved in public policy?

What surprised me?
Getting Involved

Time Commitment

I'm too busy to tell people how busy I am.
Getting Involved

Become an Academy/UAND member
Be the expert
Tell your story
Be visible
Have a mentor

Be a mentor!
Understanding Public Policy
Primary Public Policy Audience

- Where you live and vote
  - 100 U.S. State Senators
    - 2 from each state
    - Mike Lee (R), Orrin Hatch (R)
  - 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives
    - 4 from Utah
  - Governors
    - Gary Herbert
  - State legislators
    - Utah State Legislature - 75 representatives & 29 senators
  - Locally elected officials
    - Jason Chaffetz (R), Mia Love (R), Chris Stewart (R), Rob Bishop (R)
Identify Stakeholders

- **NEVER** underestimate the importance of staff persons
  - Legislative Director
  - Legislative Assistants
  - Congressional Aides
  - District Representatives

- They’re young, but they’re very knowledgeable and eager to help (and they have more influence than you may imagine!)
Trivia Break!

- How many bills were introduced in the senate last session (113^{th} Congress)?

- How many bills were introduced in the House of Representatives last session (113^{th} Congress)?
Public Policy Goals -- Academy

- Disease Prevention and Treatment
- Lifecycle Nutrition
- Healthy Food Systems and Access
- Quality Health Care
Improving Health Across the Lifecycle & Healthy Food Access for Vulnerable Populations

- **Children’s Health**
  - Child Nutrition Re-authorization
  - Coverage under Medicaid & CHIP

- **Seniors’ Health**
  - Older Americans Act Re-authorization
  - Expanded Medicare Coverage
  - Malnutrition

Action Alert opened on Sept 20!
Malnutrition electronic Clinical Quality Measures
Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative

The following four eCQMs have been proposed:

1. Completion of a **Malnutrition Screening** within 24 hours of Admission

2. Completion of a **Nutrition Assessment** for Patients Identified as At-Risk for Malnutrition within 24 hours of a Malnutrition Screening

3. **Nutrition Care Plan** for Patients Identified as Malnourished after a Completed Nutrition Assessment

4. Appropriate **Documentation of a Malnutrition Diagnosis**
Quality Care, Disease Prevention & Treatment: Right Providers at the Right Time

- Access to RDN-provided or -led services for chronic disease prevention and treatment
  - Senate Chronic Care Working Group Policy Proposals
  - Congressional Diabetes Caucus
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- Specific Legislative Initiatives:
  - Preventing Diabetes in Medicare Act (S. 3082/H.R. 1686)
  - Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (S. 1509/H.R. 2404)
  - National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act (H.R. 1192)

The House Energy & Commerce Sub-committee on Health held a hearing on this bill this month!
Quality Care, Disease Prevention & Treatment: Investing in the Next Century of Health Care

- Protect *funding* streams for critical programs:
  - Appropriations and the Federal Budget
  - Prevention and Public Health Fund

- Adapt to/drive *changes* in health care system:
  - Essential Health Benefits
  - Electronic Health Records
  - Telehealth
  - Alternative payment models
  - Quality measures
Trivia Break!

What percent of bills become laws?
Public Policy Goals -- UAND

- Advocate for food, nutrition, and health policy
- Optimize visibility and collaboration with state stakeholders
- Provide skills development in the area of advocacy
Consumer Protection

- Ensure minimum credentials to provide a service
- Protect the public from harm
- Licensure vs certification
Licensure vs Certification

Certification
- Title Protection

Licensure
- Title protection
- Scope of practice
- Practice exclusivity

Can’t have (and wouldn’t need) both
Possible Reasons for Licensure

- Payment/reimbursement (?)
- Establish & protect scope of practice
- Consumer protection

*What stories do you have to share?*
Communicating with Elected Officials
Communicating with Elected Officials

- Help them know who you are as a RDN

- What does a RDN do? What services do you provide to their constituents?

- Home office visits

- Tell your story
Communicating with Elected Officials

Speak their language

Reduce burden
Improve efficiency
Increase transparency
Communicating with Elected Officials

- Help with their initiatives
- Examples:
  - Lt. Governor Cox’s Healthy Legislature Challenge
  - UAND Dietitian Legislative Ambassador

Invest time and expertise now to pay off later
Dietitian Legislative Ambassador

- Influence nutrition public policy by consistent communication with our elected officials
- Send quarterly communications to your state legislators
  - Templates for communication provided by UAND
- Attend UAND sponsored breakfast during 2017 Legislative Session
- Sign up with UAND’s State Policy Representative
- Join the Facebook group
Getting Involved

Time Commitment
Communicating with Elected Officials

- Invite them to come to you!
Communicating with Elected Officials

- Social media communication
- Communicate to them when there isn’t an “ask”
- Be selective with your “ask”
- Collecting stories about the impact of your work - REPORT and keep track of SUCCESS stories!
Take Action!
Take action!

- Find the social media pages for your elected representatives and follow them!

- Become a Dietitian Legislative Ambassador
Action alerts are still open!

- Only 8.7% of Academy members have completed the Treat & Reduce Obesity Action Alert

- Only 1.2% of UAND members have completed it!

- [http://www.eatrightpro.org](http://www.eatrightpro.org)
Action Alerts
Action Alerts

Advocacy

- Disease Prevention and Treatment
- Lifecycle Nutrition
- Healthy Food Systems and Access
- Quality Health Care
- Action Center
  - Getting Started
  - Local Advocacy
  - Bills and Laws
  - Rules and Regulations
  - Public Policy Workshop
- Political Action Committee

Action Center

Amplify the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' voice for better food, nutrition and health policies. Learn how to speak effectively on behalf of public health and reformed health care policies and help build recognition that you are the food and nutrition experts!

Support for nutrition is not only good public policy, it is good politics. Members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics have the ability and responsibility to urge consumers and lawmakers to learn about the positive role nutrition plays in healthy lifestyles. Nutrition also plays an effective role in disease management and treatment. For both individuals and society, the benefits of eating right and exercising include improved qualities of life and lower health-care costs.

We urge you to use the resources provided by the Academy to ensure that your elected officials in Washington, D.C. know your views as both voters and nutritional and food professionals. Your activism is extremely important to the success of our agenda — and there are numerous ways to get involved.

- Write your legislator a letter
- Send your legislator a fax
- Send your legislator a direct email
- Call an elected official directly
- Educate others by spreading the word about important issues

Take Action
Action Center

Welcome to the Advocacy Action Center

[Action Alerts] [Find My Legislators]

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Action Center

Here are a few suggestions to assist you with participating in the Action Alert(s):

1. Click on the “Take Action” button below the action alert title.
2. Type your email address, zip code and press "Search for Me". If your contact information does not appear, then enter your information. Be sure all boxes with a red asterisk are completed.

If you experience any problems, please contact Teresa Nece at tnece@eatright.org

Thank you for taking action!

AVAILABLE ACTION ALERTS

[Image of the Capitol Building]
Support Improving Child Nutrition Integrity and Access Act of 2016
Take Action

[Image of an American flag]
Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2015
Take Action
Additional Advocacy Resources
Additional Advocacy Resources

http://www.eatrightutah.org/members/uda.cfm?page=advocacy
Objectives Reviewed

What is your role as a RDN, NDTR, or nutrition intern/student in nutrition-related federal legislation?

What are 3 ways to be active in the Public Policy process in Utah?