



## **SB614: Licensing the Practice of Medical Nutrition Therapy**

### **THE ISSUE**

- Michigan is one of two states that does not have statutory provisions regulating the practice of medical nutrition therapy and/or associated titles used by practitioners, such as “dietitian” and “nutritionist.”
- Dietitians and nutritionists in Michigan have come together to propose a law that provides for the clear licensure of those qualified to provide medical nutrition therapy.

### **WHAT IT WOULD DO**

- This legislation would provide for the licensure of both dietitian nutritionists (dietitians) and nutritionists as qualified nutrition professionals with the knowledge, skills and competency to provide evidence-based, safe and effective medical nutrition therapy for the treatment or management of an individual’s disease or medical condition.
- It serves to protect the public from harm by reducing confusion and increasing consumer information when seeking qualified providers of medical nutrition therapy.
- Licensed dietitian nutritionists would be required to have a bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral degree from an accredited program, complete 1,000 hours of supervised clinical training and pass the Commission on Dietetic Registration exam in order to be licensed.
- Licensed nutritionists would be required to have a master’s or doctoral degree from an accredited program, complete 1,000 hours of supervised practice and pass the Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists exam in order to be licensed.
- The legislation is modeled after New Jersey’s licensure law, which received broad support from a wide range of stakeholders.

### **WHAT IT WOULD NOT DO**

- This bill does not prevent anyone from providing basic nutrition services that do not include medical nutrition therapy. For example, personal trainers, health food stores, supplement vendors, fitness centers, holistic nutritionists and other individuals could continue to provide information on personal experiences with dietary and nutritional choices, healthy eating, established requirements for essential nutrients and nutrients contained in foods and supplements as well as discuss essential nutrients required by the body, provide weight control services and demonstrate how to cook food.