

Dear Senator Sweeney:

I am one of your constituents, a Registered Dietitian, and a member of the New Jersey Dietetic Association. First I would like to thank for your continued support and interest in the protection of the citizens of New Jersey in the area of nutrition. It has come to my attention that revisions in the licensure/scope of practice for Chiropractors are scheduled for floor debate. I would ask that the following be considered for that debate.

The proposed language in the Chiropractic bill would allow D.C.s to do “nutrition counseling.” I would recommend, based on the training of D.C.s, that the language be changed from “nutritional counseling” to “nutrition advice.” The proposed bill also would require that to provide this nutrition service, a D.C. would need “45 hours” of nutrition education. Forty-five clock hours is equivalent to one 3 credit class; hardly sufficient education for “nutrition counseling.” The average New Jersey Registered Dietitian has 15-20 times that amount of nutrition education. It is appropriate that if Chiropractors are to expand their scope of practice into our profession, they should be required to have similar educational experience. Therefore I would recommend that the language in the proposed amendment be changed from “45 hours” to “45 college credit hours” course of study concerning human nutrition. At a time when the nation’s attention is focused on the healthcare crisis and the undeniable need for qualified nutritional professionals to combat the epidemic of obesity in our culture, can New Jersey really lower the bar for nutrition counseling to the level of a single, 3 credit undergraduate course? I don’t believe that is in the best interest of our citizens.

I request that the language in the Chiropractic bill (S565) be amended to the above and if these changes are not made, I urge you to please oppose the bill as it is it is a slap in the face to the educational requirements of thousands of New Jersey nutrition professionals. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,