

**THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

**Bill Number:** Senate Resolution #2016-14  
**Title:** Resolution in Support of Licensure for Registered Dietitians in the State of California  
**Sponsored by:** Senator from the College of Health and Human Service Fatima Hasan  
**Date Submitted:** March 10, 2016  
**Date Approved:** April 20, 2016

- WHEREAS** the Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is the single recognized voice for over 37,000 students of the university; and
- WHEREAS** the ASI Senate serves as the Board of Directors for the corporation, and implements its authority as the legislative branch, voicing students' needs and interests to fulfill the mission of students self-governance; and
- WHEREAS** the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at CSULB currently offers a Bachelor's of Science degree in Dietetics and Food Administration with an option in Nutrition and Dietetics, and many of the students in the program aspire to be dietitians in California; and
- WHEREAS** the program is expanding and had an enrollment of 243 students in Spring 2016, 11 faculty with Registered Dietician (R.D.) credentials, 1 with a doctorate, 7 tenured R.D.'s and 5 staff members; and
- WHEREAS** on February 16, 2011 Assembly Member Hayashi introduced bill AB575 which died in the Assembly Desk Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee; and
- WHEREAS** Bill AB575 intended that "Only a person licensed as a dietitian or otherwise authorized to practice under this chapter shall practice "dietetics" or "medical nutrition therapy"<sup>1</sup>;" and
- WHEREAS** dietetics has been defined as "the integration and application of principles derived from the sciences of food, nutrition, management, and communication, and from the biological, physiological, behavioral, and social sciences to achieve and maintain optimal human health<sup>2</sup>;" and
- WHEREAS** Medical Nutrition Therapy has been defined as "the use of specific nutrition services for the purpose of disease management to treat or rehabilitate an illness, injury, or condition<sup>3</sup>;" and
- WHEREAS** out of 50 states about 14 do not have licensure requirement<sup>4</sup>; and
- WHEREAS** currently there is no "licensure/registration requirement for providing nutrition care" in the State of California and the current registration law included in the business and professions code 2585-2586.8 provides qualifications to be recognized as a "registered dietitian" only<sup>5</sup>; and
- WHEREAS** requirements for State Licensure/Certification include baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate from a regionally accredited institution with a program in dietetics, community nutrition, nutritional science; completion of the R.D. exam, and 900 or more hours supervised experience to meet

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.anh-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Dietetics-Licensing-Bill-AB-575-analysis-v12.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.anh-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Dietetics-Licensing-Bill-AB-575-analysis-v12.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.anh-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Dietetics-Licensing-Bill-AB-575-analysis-v12.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cdrnet.org/vault/2459/web/files/Licensurelawsregulations.pdf>

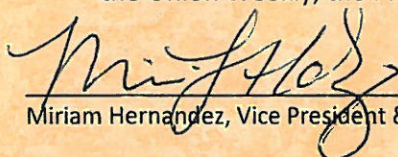
<sup>5</sup> <http://www.nutritionadvocacy.org/california-0>



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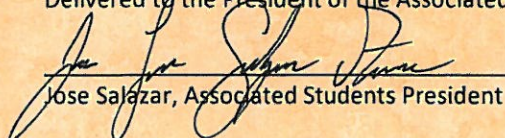
qualifications under public or private agency<sup>6</sup> approved by the Commission on Dietetic Accreditation of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; and

- WHEREAS** the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics supports licensure to protect public health especially in the case of medical nutrition therapy where inaccurate data provided by unlicensed "nutritionists" has been linked to fatality due to the lack of understanding of the medical condition and improper nutritional advice<sup>7</sup>; and
- WHEREAS** licensure "standardizes practices, services, and activities that require a high level of specialized knowledge and skill;" and
- WHEREAS** most health professionals such as physicians, nurses, and pharmacists must be licensed, and the same is true for many other occupations such as social workers, lawyers, and accountants<sup>8</sup>;" and
- WHEREAS** States regulate professions such as nurses, doctors, and physical therapists to protect the public from harm by unqualified practitioners; now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the Associated Students' Board of Directors strongly supports the Dietetics program at CSULB and the Student Dietetics Association for their desire to bring awareness to an issue currently affecting registered dietitians in the State of California; and be it
- RESOLVED** that this resolution be presented to California State Student Association (CSSA) for potential endorsement of this issue since it not only affects CSULB students but it affects registered dietitians state wide; and be it
- RESOLVED** that this resolution should be presented among Lobby Corps so they may address such issue to state members of the office; and be it finally
- RESOLVED** that upon its approval by the ASI President, electronic copies of this resolution be distributed to CSULB President Jane Conoley, Vice President for Student Affairs Carmen Taylor, Dean of Students Jeff Klaus, incoming Dean of the College of Health and Human Services Monica Lounsbury, Family and Consumer Sciences Department Chair Dr. Wendy Reiboldt, the Daily 49er, the Union Weekly, the Press-Telegram, the Long Beach Post, and the Long Beach Register.



Miriam Hernandez, Vice President & Chair, Associated Students Board of Directors

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:



José Salazar, Associated Students President

Date

4/20/16

Date

4/20/16

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.nutritionadvocacy.org/california-0>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.eatrightpro.org/resource/advocacy/quality-health-care/consumer-protection-and-licensure/questions-and-answers-on-the-regulation-of-dietetics-practice>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.sciencedirect.com.ezproxy.library.csulb.edu/science/article/pii/S2212267214012246>