
MARYLAND ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

Date: February 2, 2021
Bill: House Bill 463 – Maryland Health Equity Resource Act
Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair
Position: Support with Amendment



The Maryland Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (MAND), is an organization representing approximately 1,200 licensed dietitians and nutritionists, dietetic interns, and students within the state of Maryland.

House Bill 463 requires the Secretary of Health to designate certain areas as Health Equity Resource Communities in a certain manner; specifying that the purpose of establishing Health Equity Resource Communities is to reduce health disparities, improve health outcomes, improve access to primary care, promote primary and secondary prevention services, and reduce health care costs and hospital admissions and readmissions.

In light of the challenges to our health care delivery system brought about by the COVID-19 Pandemic, Licensed Dietitians and Nutritionists are more important than ever in creating positive outcomes. Licensed Dietitians and Nutritionists are on the front lines providing public health services. Studies have shown that Licensed Dietitian Nutritionists have the best outcomes teaching clients to adapt to their diets for diabetes, heart disease and obesity—the comorbidities that increase susceptibility to COVID-19.¹ Improving populations' health, eliminating barriers to care, and addressing social determinants of health will help Maryland citizens now and in the future, not to mention decrease healthcare costs.

To that end we respectfully request a friendly amendment to include licensed dietitians and nutritionists on the work of the Advisory Committee.

Proposed Amendment:

On Page 7 after line 13, Insert:

ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF LICENSED DIETITIANS AND NUTRITIONISTS;

MAND stands ready as a resource and partner in this important undertaking. Thank you for your consideration of our comments. We respectfully ask for a FAVORABLE report on HB463 and Favorable consideration of this amendment.

Dr. Glenda L. Lindsey , Dr. PH, MS, RDN, LDN
Public Policy Coordinator
Public Policy Panel

Helene Fletcher MS, RDN, LDN
MAND President

¹ 1. Position of the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics: The Role of Medical Nutrition Therapy and Registered Dietitian Nutritionists in the Prevention and Treatment of Prediabetes and Type II Diabetes, J of Acad. of Nutr & Diet, Feb. 2018, 118 (2).