

Licensure for Arizona RDs

By Jolene Buettner and the Public Policy Committee

The Arizona Dietetic Association (AZDA) is investigating the feasibility of establishing Licensure for Arizona Registered Dietitians. As part of this effort the Public Policy Committee has formed a Licensure Sub-Committee tasked to educate and inform members and non-members of the licensure process. There is no better time than the present to address this important issue. Arizona is one of only four states that does **not** have regulations regarding licensure and/or title protection of RDs. Several education sessions will be provided throughout this year and in all districts. By the spring a survey will be executed to all RDs in Arizona to help determine our future direction in this area. The Public Policy Committee urges all RDs to take the time to become informed and ask questions as needed.

The primary goal of seeking licensure is to ensure competency of nutrition professionals for the protection of the public while not restricting the practice of RDs and other health care professionals operating within their specific scope of practice.

- The use of titles such “dietitian” and “nutritionist” would be protected
- Protects the scope of practice of RDs
- Only qualified nutrition professionals practice Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT)
- Unqualified nutrition professionals would have legal ramifications for practicing MNT
- Nutrition professionals would be required to meet specific education and credentialing requirements similar to what is already required to become an RD
- Enhances value and visibility of the RD credential
- All other healthcare providers have some professional title protection except RDs
- Ensures competency which provides the competitive advantage for our profession

To find out more, go to www.eatright.org and search “dietetics licensure”.

Other links: www.eatrightarizona.org Click on Licensure to access a PowerPoint presentation and other articles relating to this issue.