Advocacy 101: Public Policy

"Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you"
~ Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Developed by The California Academy’s Public Policy Council
Training on Public Policy and Advocacy

• Goal: Develop an increased understanding of California government, Federal government, and how lawmaking affects registered dietitians.

• Objectives:
  • Understand public policy and advocacy.
  • Utilize CAND and AND resources.
  • Identify and differentiate state and federal offices.
  • Learn what you can do to make a difference!

Mission: Empower our members to be the state’s food and nutrition leaders!
Agenda

- Advocacy
- California Government
- CAND Resources
- Federal Government
- AND Resources
- PPW18 Updates
- What you can do!
PUBLIC POLICY HAS AN IMPACT ON:

• Legislation improving RDN practice
• The determination of practitioners
• Referrals and reimbursements
• Funding/grants
• Student financial aid
• Occupational licensing
• Facility licensing
California Government

Three Branches of Government

• Governor - newly elected!

• State Senate = 40 Members
  • 2 year terms

• State Assembly = 80 Members
  • 3 year terms

• Term limits (rev. 2012)
  – 12 years total

Who is my legislator?
http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov
Executive Agencies which Affect RDNs

Health & Human Services
- Public Health
- Health Care Services
- Managed Health Care
- Social Services
- State Hospitals

Department of Consumer Affairs
- Business Consumer Services
- Licensing of Professions
How a Bill Becomes a Law

1. **Bill is introduced**
2. **Committee Hearings**
   - If passed (Sent to other house)
3. **Floor Action**
   - If passed with amendments
4. **Returned to original house**
   - If original house concurs
   - Bill goes to Governor
     - If not vetoed
     - Most bills become law January 1 of the next year
California laws affecting RDN’s

- B&P 2585 & 2586 & 2068
  - www.legislature.ca.gov
  - Under California Code – Business & Professions
- B&P 2068
  - Anybody can provide basic nutrition information
- B&P 2585 – RD Title Act
- B&P 2586 – scope of practice
  - Updated & clarified January 2015 with SB 993
CAND Public Policy Resources

• Strong Public Policy Council – trainings for PP Reps
• Lobbyist(s) in Sacramento
• Legislative & Congressional Ambassador Programs – trained positions
• CANDPAC (political action committee)
• Annual Public Policy Workshop CA – March in Sacramento
• District Pre PPW CA Training Workshops
• Public Policy Sessions at Annual Conference

Website https://www.dietitian.org/advocacy
Federal Government

Three Branches Government

- Executive Branch
- Legislative Branch
  - Senate
  - House of Representatives
- Judicial Branch

Who is my legislator?
https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative
Executive Departments Affecting RDNs

**Health & Human Services**
- Aging
- CMS – Center for Medicare and Medicaid
- FDA – Food & Drug Administration
- NIH – National Institutes of Health
- NIMH – National Institutes of Mental Health

**Agriculture**
- USDA – US Department of Agriculture
Federal Legislation

How a bill becomes a law (Basically)

- Introduced in House (H 1)
  - Referred to Committee and Subcommittee
  - Floor Action: Debate and Voting
  - President can sign into law or veto.

- Introduced in Senate (S 1)
  - Referred to Committee and Subcommittee
  - Floor Action: Debate and Voting
  - Conference Committee works out differences. New version sent back for approval.
Examples of AND supported Federal Legislation

• Farm Bill – SNAP & SNAP-Ed programs (food stamps)
• Treat & Reduce Obesity Act (RDN payment for obesity tx under Medicare)
• Older Americans Act – (home delivered & congregate meal programs)
• Ryan White (HIV/AIDS) Act
• Expanding Access to Diabetes Self-Management Training Act (improve patient access to training)
The Academy: Public Policy Resources

• PIA (Policy, Initiatives & Advocacy) in Washington, DC
  – RDNs, attorneys, lobbyists
  – Frequent “Hill” visits to Legislators
    • bipartisan legislative efforts
    • regulatory comments

• Legislative and Public Policy Committee

• ANDPAC: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Political Action Committee
  [Link: https://www.eatrightpro.org/advocacy/political-action-committee/]
The Academy: Public Policy Resources

• Monthly PP & Reimbursement Conference Calls
• Public Policy Workshop
• Public Policy Community of Interests on Website with valuable resources
• Monthly webinars
• Quarterly Advocacy Days in DC
• Policy Sessions at FNCE

• Public Policy Weekly News
• Eat Right Weekly
• Academy Daily News
• Evidence Analysis Library
• Position Papers

Website: www.eatrightpro.org/Advocacy
Some important reminders…

• CA Academy (CAND) is an affiliate of the Academy (AND)
  • When you represent the CAND, you also represent the AND

• When the CA Academy supports or opposes legislation or public policy messages, it must not conflict with Academy messages

• The Registered Dietitian Nutritionist = Nutrition Expert

• You bring your evidence-based expertise to legislators in Sacramento and Washington!

• This will change your life!
Update: PPW18 Washington DC!

Levels of Consumer Protection

- Licensure with Practice Inclusivity (most consumer protection)
- Licensure
- Certification
- Title Protection (least consumer protection)

For More Information:
- Eatrightpro.org/advocacy#licensure
- E-mail: licensure@eatright.org

- California: Title Protection Without Formal State Regulation
Licensure:

A state agency issues a license to individuals who meet specified qualifications to practice a particular profession. Licensing statutes for dietetics and nutrition *always* include a **title protection provision**.

**Practice exclusivity clause:** limits the ability of unlicensed individuals to provide services within the defined scope of practice for the regulated profession.

- **State Certification:** A state agency certifies that individuals with specified credentials are qualified to practice a particular profession and also ensures that those certified individuals are held to established standards of practice. Certification statutes include title protection provisions, but *not* practice exclusivity provisions.

- **Title Protection:** As with certification, this least protective form of state regulation permits anyone to practice the profession, but only individuals with specified qualifications or credentials (such as the RDN credential) may hold themselves out as dietitians, nutritionists, or use other titles as specified in the title protection statute. However, there are no established standards of practice or ethics established or regulated by the state.
If dietetics is your profession, the public policy should be your passion! What can you do...now!!

• Maintain membership to AND + your local district! Takes 5 minutes!
• Action alerts...do them!! Takes 2 minutes!
• Subscribe and read the Public Policy Update Newsletter! 30 minutes!
• Become an ambassador to your legislator! Takes 5 hours a year!
• Come to PPW in Sacramento! Takes 1 day!
• Become a Public Policy District Representative!
• Donate to CANDPAC and ANDPAC – support legislators that support us!
• Run for Office😊
“Moving Forward Together”
Monday March 11th 2019
Registration is Open!
Go to www.dietitian.org

Don’t delay…book your hotel accommodations now, rooms fill up fast!

See you there!
Thank you!