LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
Sixty-second Legislature First Regular Session - 2013

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ENCOURAGING THE INCLUSION OF NUTRITION SERVICES AS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT IN THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF CHRONIC DISEASE.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, nearly 62% of Idaho's adult residents are overweight or obese due to poor nutrition and physical inactivity, putting them at risk for costly chronic diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity-related cancers; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in the average Body Mass Index (BMI) by five percent in Idaho's citizens could lead to health care savings of more than one billion dollars in ten years and three billion dollars in twenty years; and

WHEREAS, nutrition and wellness classes provided by registered dietitians have resulted in positive outcomes in BMI, blood sugars and reduction of heart disease risk throughout Idaho; and

WHEREAS, registered dietitians in Idaho collaborate with other medical professionals to deliver Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT), ensuring a patient's overall health with an emphasis on prevention, improved clinical outcomes and reducing health care costs; and

WHEREAS, according to the Institute of Medicine, "the registered dietitian is currently the single identifiable group of health-care professionals with standardized education, clinical training, continuing education and national credentialing requirements necessary to be directly reimbursed as a provider of nutrition therapy."; and

WHEREAS, registered dietitians work in a variety of professions and locations throughout Idaho in the private and public sector and are trained medical professionals who are licensed through the Idaho State Board of Medicine.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature finds that registered dietitians can help the people of Idaho in the selection of nutritious foods, including Idaho food products, prevent and manage diseases through MNT and counseling, and provide nutrition education in schools, workplaces, clinics and other venues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by providing MNT and professional nutrition counseling by Idaho registered dietitians in conjunction with existing services covered by insurance carriers, there will be a significant impact on chronic disease management, along with significant health care cost savings in the State of Idaho.