

Illinois Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics Advocacy Day 2025

Duration: 180 minutes w/ Q & A (3.0 CPEU)

Date: Tuesday April 8th, 2025

Program Description:

This session provides a high-level overview of the Academy's Fiscal Year 2025 policy priorities, focusing on key federal and state legislative initiatives, regulatory efforts, and payment advocacy. Attendees will gain insight into advocacy strategies, available Academy resources, and how to effectively communicate policy priorities to stakeholders.

Performance Indicators:

- 3.2.1 Advocates for, and participates in, activities that support advancement of the profession.
- 3.2.2 Participates in professional and personal development activities for career growth and skill enhancement.
- 3.2.3 Pursues and embraces opportunities to advance practice.
- 3.2.5 Educates the employer and the public on the role and the benefits of receiving care or services from an RDN and NDTR.
- 3.2.6 Communicates with policymakers to influence decisions that impact advancement of the profession.
- 3.2.7 Contributes to the development and revision of government policies.
- 4.1.3 Aligns work with organization policies, strategic plan and mission statement.
- 4.2 Advocates for and participates in activities that support advancement of the profession.
- 4.3 Advocates for nutrition and dietetics services and resources for clients and populations.
- 12.1.3 Collaborates with community partners and stakeholders in promoting nutritional health and disease prevention.
- 13.1.4 Influences legislation, regulation, and policy changes to impact nutrition and well-being in the community.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the Academy's Future State Vision and key priorities for Fiscal Year 2025.

- Identify major federal and state policy initiatives, including the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act, Treat and Reduce Obesity Act, and Farm Bill advocacy.
- Recognize regulatory focus areas impacting the profession, including Medicare payment reform, value-based care models, and front-of-package labeling.
- Utilize Academy advocacy resources to educate and engage members, dietetics students, and other stakeholders.
- Participants will become familiar with Grassroots policy and will be able to identify important Illinois state legislation that directly impacts the Dietetics profession.
- Participants will know how to effectively get involved and act.
 - Participants will gain knowledge on the status of our current State Licensure Law, next steps, and proposed/current legislation and how to support advocacy.
 - Participants will learn the roles of the public policy committee
 - Participants will be able to learn skills in meeting with state representatives.

Speakers:

Rebecca Ilic and Bethany Brown serve as the State Policy Representatives for Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and have experience in policy, advocacy, and legislative affairs. Their role involves educating members on policy initiatives and guiding advocacy efforts at the state level. With expertise in advocacy, our current state licensure, and policy, they are well-equipped to present the Academy's FY25 policy priorities.

Activity Content & Outline

I. Introduction (5 min) (Rebecca Ilic, MS, RD, LDN and Bethany Brown, MS, RDN, LDN)

- President's Address (Jennifer Zuercher, PhD, RD, LDN)
- Overview of session goals
- The importance of clear, consistent messaging in policy advocacy

II. Academy's FY25 Policy Priorities (15 min) (Rebecca Ilic, Bethany Brown, Amy Moore)

- Overview of the Future State Vision
- Advocacy focus areas (MNT access, licensure compact, workforce issues)

III. Federal Policy Initiatives (20 min) (Elizabeth Gutierrez)

- Overview of Public Policy Coordinator position

- Medical Nutrition Therapy Act
- Treat and Reduce Obesity Act
- Older Americans Act
- Farm Bill Advocacy

IV. Regulatory Focus Areas (10 min) (Amy Moore)

- Overview of Payment Specialist position
- CMS & Medicare Payment Advocacy

V. State Legislative Initiatives (30 min) (Bethany Brown and Rebecca Ilic)

- Overview of the State Policy Representative position
- Dietitian Licensure Compact
- Model Practice Act (MPA)
- Current Legislation and Bill Monitoring

(10 Minute Break)

VI. Lobbyist Message (35 min) (David Ormsby and Andrew Kretschmar)

- Licensure
- Current Climate of Administration
- What do affiliates need to focus on now?
- Q&A

VII. Consumer Protection (5 min) (Amy Moore)

- Overview of position and current example

VIII. State Regulatory Specialists (5 min) (Staci Bettiker)

- Overview of position and State Regulatory Example

IX. Affiliate House of Delegates (10 min) (Connie Cranford)

- Overview of position and team
- Critical issues process

X. Engaging in Advocacy (20 min) (Amy Moore, Rebecca Ilic, Bethany Brown)

- Affiliate resources and action steps
- How to effectively present this information to audiences

XI. Q&A & Discussion (15 min)

- Open floor for questions and clarifications