Recently, there was debate regarding the Florida Dietetics and Nutrition Practice Act (Florida Statute 468 Part X). This statute protects the citizens of Florida by enshrining the Registered Dietitian Nutrition’s scope of practice and title into law. On January 9th, Representative Blaise Ingoglia introduced House Bill 1193: Deregulation of Professions and Occupations, which aimed to completely dismantle our practice act. Despite the efforts of our state and national partners, as well as our own members, the bill passed the House in March with only title protection for dietitians. We turned to our Florida Senators to help us protect the public from rampant nutrition misinformation.

Thanks to your effort, we were able to maintain the majority of the practice act. Below is the change that made it into the act, which allows for individuals who are not RDNs to give obesity and weight loss counseling. This change goes into effect on July 1st, 2020.

We must expect that there will be others who attempt to chip away at the practice act. It is often difficult to know exactly where legislation is in the process. Become familiar with how to reach your representatives to inform them of your opinion. Join me by keeping a keen eye out for future legislation that impacts our profession and thus the health and safety of the public.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to call or email our state leaders. This would not have been possible without you!

468.505 Exemptions; exceptions.— (1) Nothing in this part may be construed as prohibiting or restricting the practice, services, or activities of: (n) Any person who provides information, wellness recommendations, or advice concerning nutrition, or who markets food, food materials, or dietary supplements for remuneration, if such person does not provide such services to a person under the direct care and supervision of a medical doctor for a disease or medical condition requiring nutrition intervention, not including obesity or weight loss, and does not represent himself or herself as a dietitian, licensed dietitian, registered dietitian, nutritionist, licensed nutritionist, nutrition counselor, or licensed nutrition counselor, or use any word, letter, symbol, or insignia indicating or implying that he or she is a dietitian, nutritionist, or nutrition counselor.

Bill history: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1193>

Bill text (line 391): <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1193/BillText/er/PDF>