



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 30, 2017

Contact: Christina Lemon, MS, RD, CD
President, Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (WAND); (608) 692-5047

The Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Applauds Signing of Senate Bill 385
Bipartisan Bill Makes Health Care More Efficient in Long-Term Care Facilities

The Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (WAND) applauds Governor Walker for signing Senate Bill 385 into law. The bill updates Wisconsin statutes to reflect federal code relating to diet ordering-writing privileges in long-term care facilities.

“Granting the registered dietitian authority to order necessary diet changes is a way to improve efficiency and reduce costs for the facility and expedite quality of life improvements for its residents,” said WAND President, Christina Lemon, MS, RD, CD.

“This bill will ultimately improve care for residents in nursing homes and facilities serving people with developmental disabilities,” said WAND Public Policy & Advocacy Chair, Catherine Mussatti, RD, CD. “Registered dietitians work in many different settings in communities across Wisconsin and this is a common-sense approach to improving care in long-term facilities.”

Senate Bill 385 changes Wisconsin statute to allow attending physicians to delegate prescribing of a resident’s therapeutic or modified diet to certified or licensed dietitians practicing in nursing homes or facilities serving persons with developmental disabilities.

“On behalf of our 1,500 members across Wisconsin, I want to thank Governor Walker for signing this bill into law,” Lemon said. “I also want to give our sincere thanks to Sen. Patrick Testin and Rep. Joan Ballweg for authoring this bill. We could not have done this without their passion and leadership.”

###