



PEACH POLICY PAPERS

PPC Chair's Corner

By Robin Steagall, MSPP, RDN, LDN

Greetings from the Chair!

Exciting times are underway as the 2024 General Assembly commenced on January 8th, bringing with it a flurry of legislative activity. Currently, over 3380 pieces of legislation are progressing through the process, with our Public Policy Committee diligently monitoring bills related to nutrition, dietetics, licensure, and public health. Mariah McDaniel, GAND Legislative Monitor, alongside our dedicated lobbyist team at Cornerstone Communications Group, have been doing exceptional work tracking legislation and staying updated.

I'm pleased to share updates on two pieces of legislation directly impacting dietetic licensure. First, HB 844 has undergone extensive revisions, and the final version is now available for review [here](#). Drawing lessons from national licensure challenges, we've incorporated provisions to safeguard consumer safety, preserve the integrity of the licensed dietitian credential, and clarify guidelines for other nutrition professionals providing individualized care. These changes pave the way for a future where all Georgians can access necessary nutrition care while maintaining the distinction of the licensed dietitian credential. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions about HB 844.

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Meeting with Tyler Harper, Commissioner of
the Dept of Agriculture

Left to right: Corinne Jacobs-Hayes, Robin Steagall,
Commissioner Tyler Harper, Cicely Thomas

PPC CHAIR'S CORNER CONT.

Second, I'm thrilled to announce that **licensure compact legislation** has been written and is undergoing a review process by Georgia Senate leadership. Georgia has licensure compacts for 8 professions, including Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Counseling. If this legislation passes, Georgia would join 7 other states introducing dietetic licensure compacts. Licensure compacts streamline the process for obtaining licensure across state lines, making it more affordable and efficient for RDNs to serve clients in multiple states. Learn more about Dietetic Licensure Compacts [here](#), and we eagerly anticipate sharing updates on the legislation's progress.

Finally, we're excited to welcome over 40 dietetic professionals and students to the 2024 **GAND Advocacy Day**. A huge shout out to Alex Webb, State Regulatory Specialist, for putting together an incredible itinerary, securing 2 free CEUs for attendees, and leading the effort to increase participation in this vital professional advocacy event. A copy of the 2024 Georgia Legislative Guide can be accessed [here](#). We look forward to seeing everyone at the Capitol!

In health,
Robin

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Advocacy Day - February 26, 2024

8 am to noon at the Georgia State Capitol



Get to know your PPC committee members, catch up on the latest committee initiatives, and enjoy insightful guest speakers. Join us for a special opportunity to meet with legislators, tour the Capitol, and witness the General Assembly in action. Following the eventful morning, indulge in a delightful lunch and connect with fellow community members. More details will be shared upon confirming your attendance. **RSVP [here](#)** to secure your spot!

ACE - March 14-15, 2024

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Scottish Rite

Join us for the 2024 Georgia Academy Annual Conference & Exhibition (ACE) to learn more about emerging trends in food, health, and nutrition! In-person and virtual options are available, and a ***FREE*** pre-conference with pending approval for 6 CEUs will be held on **March 13th**. Check [here](#) for additional details and RSVP!

GAND - POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (GAND-PAC)

Holly Porter (PAC Chair)

The Who, What, Where, When, and Why of GAND-PAC

This month, GAND-PAC is kicking off a focused fundraising campaign to replenish our funds. You'll see calls to action coming to your inbox, through social media and at upcoming GAND events. So, I thought this would be a good time to remind GAND members - Why donate to GAND-PAC?

Who: GAND-PAC is composed of a board of trustees, made up of a group of dedicated volunteers who see value in advocating for GAND's public policy priorities.

What: From an administrative standpoint, GAND-PAC is a committee of GAND that serves as GAND's political arm. By design, GAND-PAC funds are kept separate from GAND funds, so that we may ethically use them to enhance our advocacy efforts. (This is why when you donate to our PAC must, you must specify your donation for GAND-PAC.)

This year we supported:

- Secretary of State
- Commissioner of Agriculture
- Legislators serving on the House Regulated Industries Committee
- Legislators serving on the Senate Health and Human Services Committee
- Legislators in both chambers who are working to address nutrition security

Where: In Georgia, of course! Aside from allocating funds, our main work takes place in the form of meetings with elected officials and lawmakers. Sometimes we meet over lunch and sometimes we meet in offices at the state Capitol. Donations from GAND-PAC in the form of campaign contributions open doors to these meetings. (I.e. We cannot do this work without funds!)

When: All of our donations must be made either before or after the legislative session. But meetings take place throughout the year as we're able to get time with busy legislators and elected officials.

Why: One of the most effective ways to get our message across is to get to know the people who have influence in the public policy sphere. GAND and GAND-PAC work with an excellent lobbying team to guide on who has influence over the issues we care about and how we can best connect with these folks.

I hope that helps our members understand what we do. Please join us by donating [here](#). to become a GAND-PAC member! And if you want to get more involved, email us at gand-pac@eatrightgeorgia.org

Holly Porter, MS, RDN

Board of Trustees: Holly Porter (Chair): hollybporter@me.com, Alivia Setka (Secretary), Beth Battle (Treasurer), Robin Steagall (Trustee), Corinne Jacobs-Hayes (Trustee), Sue Tocher (Trustee), Melissa Brillhart (Trustee)

REIMBURSEMENT UPDATES

Medicare Rates 2024

Dave Muoio from Fierce Healthcare writes about the proposal for doctors to experience a reduction in pay in 2024. The initial suggestion in the 2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule was a 3.37% decrease in the payment doctors would receive compared to 2023. Nevertheless, the article highlights a bipartisan initiative in the House, introducing a bill with the intention of preventing the planned pay cut for physicians in 2024. Despite the initial proposal for a pay decrease, ongoing efforts are being made to alter this plan and ensure that doctors do not experience a decline in their pay. Click this [link](#) to read the full article.

Medicare Rates 2024							
HCPCS	State Acronym	State/ Locality	Carrier	RD Non-Facility Rate	RD Facility Rate	Physician Non-Facility Rate	Physician Facility Rate
97802	GA	Atlanta, GA	1020201	\$30.33	\$26.44	\$35.68	\$31.11
97802	GA	Rest of State	1020299	\$28.59	\$25.14	\$33.63	\$29.58
97803	GA	Atlanta, GA	1020201	\$26.44	\$22.55	\$31.10	\$26.53
97803	GA	Rest of State	1020299	\$24.88	\$21.44	\$29.27	\$25.22

Call for Action to Advocate for MNT Coverage under Medicaid!

Uncover the recent call for action regarding Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) coverage. This [article](#) highlights the crucial need for preventative measures to reduce the future risk of disease among Georgians.

Here's your simple roadmap to getting involved:

1. Complete an Action Alert for the MNT Act: Click [here](#) to play your part!
2. Spread the Word: Share the public action alert with five people—friends, colleagues, clients. Encourage them to join the movement for MNT.



Get on board, make a subtle impact, and let's make waves in advocacy together!

MORE UPDATES

Have you heard about the Obesity Bill?

The Obesity Bill of Rights is a set of rights that every person with obesity should have to get needed information and the best care. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics has joined more than 30 organizations to support the Obesity Bill of Rights. To read more about the bill, click [here](#).



A message from our State Policy Representative, Caitlin Waddle:

You just never know where a phone call will take you. Earlier in January, I received a call from a number I didn't recognize on my cell phone. Usually, I would let these calls go to voicemail, but I was free and I decided to answer. When I answered, I found that it was the Chief of Staff for Representative Lisa Campbell. She had found my name on The Georgia Academy's website and had questions regarding House Bill 844. We had a great conversation about the bill, and I found out that the Chief of Staff was a former dietitian. I ended the phone call by inviting her to join us during The Georgia Academy's Advocacy Day on February 26 and sending her a one-page information sheet on HB 844. It was such a great connection! Lesson learned, don't always let those random calls go to voice mail.

Want to learn more about GAND PPC and PAC?

Email us at ppc@eatrightgeorgia.org and gand-pac@eatrightgeorgia.org OR check out our websites:

- [GAND-PPC](#)
- [GAND-PAC](#)



Want to be involved with GAND? Start by filling out this [form](#)!

ACTION ITEMS & THINGS TO KNOW

- Donate to the GAND Licensure Defense Fund [online](#) or Venmo/PayPal @EatrightGA - put licensure defense in the comment section
- Become a member of GAND PAC by making a PAC donation [here](#).
- Do you have an NPI #? If not, find out more [here](#) and register for free.
- The Academy **Action Alerts** are a quick & easy way to advocate for nutrition-related bills & you can take action on current alerts [here](#). Options for members & non-members to participate!



Annual Conference & Exhibition

Emerging Trends in Food, Health & Nutrition

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Scottish Rite
1001 Johnson Ferry Rd NE
Atlanta, GA 30342

STRONG+LIFE Pre-Conference: March 13, 2024
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta ACE: March 14-15, 2024

GAND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PPC MEMBERS

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- State Regulatory Specialist (SRS)** - Alex Webb, RDN, LD
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