

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19
BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ENCOURAGING THE INCLUSION OF NUTRI-
3 TION SERVICES AS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT IN THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT
4 OF CHRONIC DISEASE.

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

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

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

13 WHEREAS, nutrition and wellness classes provided by registered dieti-
14 tians have resulted in positive outcomes in BMI, blood sugars and reduction
15 of heart disease risk throughout Idaho; and

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

20 WHEREAS, according to the Institute of Medicine, "the registered dieti-
21 tian is currently the single identifiable group of health-care profession-
22 als with standardized education, clinical training, continuing education
23 and national credentialing requirements necessary to be directly reimbursed
24 as a provider of nutrition therapy."; and

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

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

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