

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Please Forward to: Dr. Dawn Buckingham
Date: Wednesday, July 09, 2014 2:39:24 PM
Attachments: LOGO_fnal horizontal crop for signature.png

From: Jessica Coffee RD, LD [mailto:jessica.coffee@myurbannutrition.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2014 1:19 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Please Forward to: Dr. Dawn Buckingham

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Message: B53bd87970000.000000000001.0001.mml
From: jessica.coffee@myurbannutrition.com
To: sunset@sunset.state.tx.us
Subject: Please Forward to: Dr. Dawn Buckingham

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Honorable Dr. Dawn Buckingham,
As a Licensed Dietitian who has practiced in the Dallas/Fort Worth area for 5 years, I was very disturbed to learn about the Sunset Staff Report recommendation to eliminate the licensure program for dietitians. In my opinion, this is definitely not in the public interest. Dietitian licensure is an important consumer safeguard that serves a meaningful public purpose. When I say I am a Licensed Dietitian in Texas, it means I have the necessary preparation and education to address the specialized nutrition needs of patients with serious underlying medical conditions. For example, as an expert in Medical Nutrition Therapy, I am trained to recommend nutrient needs for medically-prescribed diets, including tube feedings and specialized intravenous solutions; to tailor diets for very sick patients in hospitals and skilled nursing homes; and to provide guidance on food and drug interactions that can do serious harm to patients with certain medical conditions. With more and more businesses and individuals finding new ways to profit from dispensing nutrition advice or treatment, it is essential for consumers to be able to distinguish between those that are trained to perform Medical Nutrition Therapy and those that are not. Dietitian licensure is an important tool in guiding patients to the dietary care they need. I urge the Sunset Commission work group to preserve the Texas Board of Examiners of Dietitians and the irreplaceable consumer protection it provides.

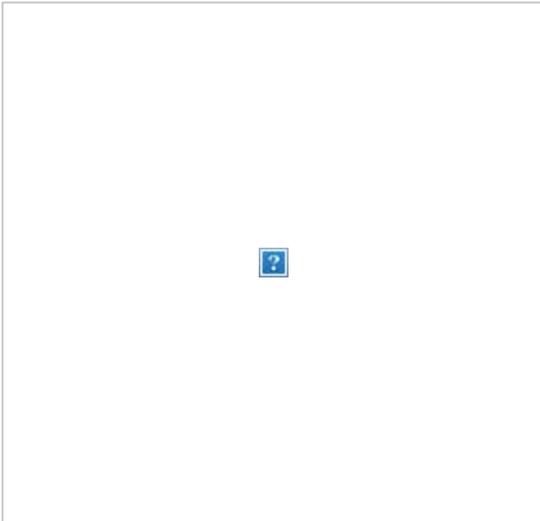
Best regards,
Jessica Coffee RDN, LD
Registered & Licensed Dietitian
Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Public Policy Coordinator

Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year



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