## NOLTH Dakota Making a Difference!

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Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

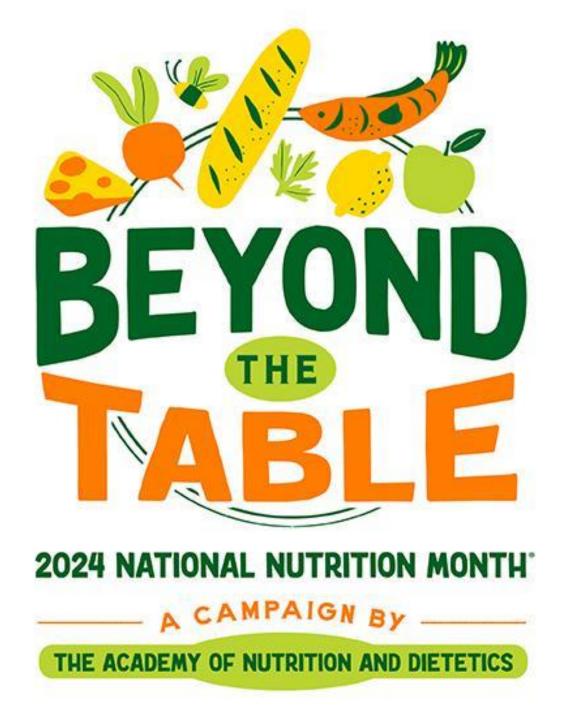




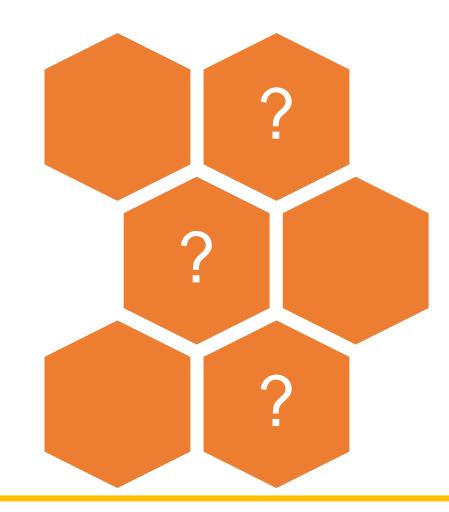
# Disclosures

- No relevant financial disclosures
- Employed by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- Registered lobbyist

## Happy National Nutrition Month<sup>®</sup>!



#### Go Beyond the Table and Advocate!





Why are constituent voices important?



# **ONE PERSON** CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AND EVERYONE SHOULD TRY. -JOHN F. KENNEDY-

## Partners in policy - federal and state





## **Public Policy Priorities** 2024–2026

#### eqt<sup>•</sup> Academy of Nutrition right• and Dietetics









Equitable access to nutrition services provided by qualified practitioners Federal programs that increase access to nutritious, safe, culturally relevant and affordable food that improve health and wellbeing Evidenceinformed Dietary Guidelines for Americans that embrace cultural and diverse dietary patterns Maximize funding for federal nutrition programs and services, workforce diversity initiatives and educational opportunities for health professions. Academy's Current Policy and Advocacy Efforts

- Farm Bill initiatives
- Child Nutrition
- Older Adult programs
- Consistent licensure laws
- Dietitian Licensure Compact
- MNT Access

#### right. Academy of Nutrition



### Academy Priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill

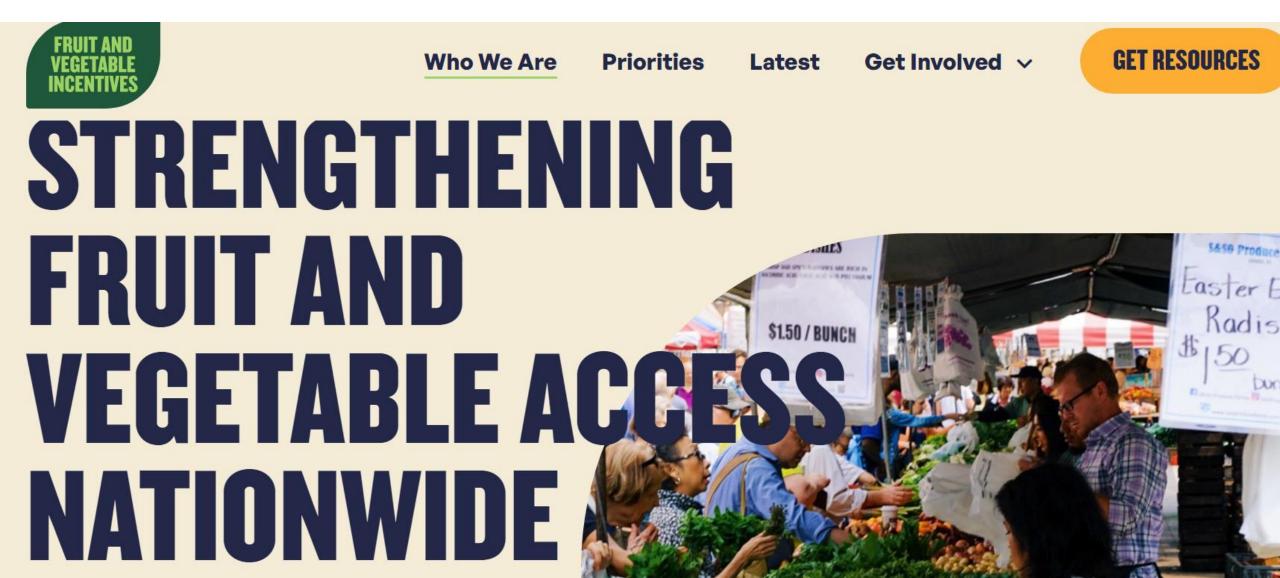
Promoting Nutrition Security, Health Equity and a Sustainable Food System

## Farm Bill...2025?

- Support nutrition security and health equity; improve access to healthful and culturally appropriate foods and resources to prepare them.
  - SNAP-Ed, Nutrition Incentives
- Create a diverse workforce and ensure sound science and program evaluation for future evidence-based decision making that is grounded in promoting health equity.
  - Research, including the USDA Human Nutrition Research Center in Grand Forks
- Support initiatives that foster a healthful and sustainable food system.
  - Regional food systems

Farm Bill (eatrightpro.org)

## **Alliance for National Nutrition Incentives**



## **Alliance for National Nutrition Incentives**

## **NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS**

**Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics** 

**American Heart Association** 

Bread for the World

**Center For Science in The Public Interest** 

Council for a Strong America

Fair Food Network

Farmers Market Coalition

International Fresh Produce Association

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

National Grocers Association

**National Produce Prescription Collaborative** 

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

Save the Children

Share Our Strength

**Union of Concerned Scientists** 

Wholesome Wave



#### Promoting Nutrition Incentives with the ANNI Coalition



<u>FNP (SNAP-Ed) | NDSU Agriculture</u>



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) is a federally funded program available in all states. SNAP-Ed in North Dakota, known as the Famil Nutrition Program (FNP), is provided through NDSU Extension. FNP helps limitedresource families:

- Make food decisions that support a healthful diet and stretch food dollars
- Cook nutritious meals and prepare food safely



### SNAP-Ed Briefing for Congressional Staff

Celebrating Full Funding for WIC!

Thank you to everyone who took action alerts,

e-mailed, called or contacted Senators Hoeven and Cramer and House Member Armstrong.

Our voices make a difference!



Increased nutrition for children through WIC and Child Nutrition Programs

USDA Final Rules expected in April 2024



#### WIC

- Finalizing increased Fruits and Vegetables benefits
- Expanding whole grains
- More non-dairy options
- Canned fish
- Formula flexibility

#### **Child Nutrition**

- Limits on added sugars
- Continuing to decrease sodium
- Increased whole grains
- Additional AI/AN cultural foods

## Now permanent, Summer EBT Program!

- \$40 per eligible child, per month
- More than 10 years of research
- First new federal nutrition program in years
- Reduces childhood food insecurity by a significant amount, including the most severe form of food insecurity
- Promotes a healthy diet.



The Summer Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT) **helps families with the cost of food for children** during the summer months.

#### WHO QUALIFIES?

If you have a school-age child who was eligible for free or reduced-priced meals during the 2022/2023 school year, your family may qualify.





QUESTIONS? P-EBT Hotline: (701) 328-2732; 711 (TTY) Email: snap-pebt@nd.gov



Health & Human Services

## Healthy School Meals for All: So many wins!

#### **Academic Benefits**

## In schools with universal school meals, students had:

- Improved:
  - Standardized test scores in math and English Language Arts<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Attention and learning retainment<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Overall attendance, reduced tardiness and decrease in suspensions<sup>1,3</sup>
- Increase in overall educational attainment in adulthood<sup>4</sup>



#### **Community/Economic Benefits**

## Participation in school meals benefits local communities and economies by:

- Promoting Farm to School programs, supporting local farmers and ranchers<sup>7</sup>
- Building community partnerships<sup>8</sup>
- Investing in local economies for every \$1 invested in school meals, local economies have a \$2 return in impact<sup>9</sup>



## Healthy School Meals for All: So many wins!

#### **Equity Benefits**

#### **Health Benefits**

School meals provide a key support for low-income and students of color. Equitable access to school meals decreases disparities by:

- Reducing:
  - Rates of food insecurity<sup>3,6</sup>
  - Stigmas related to free or reduced-price meals<sup>10</sup>
- Increasing availability of nutritious foods to minority students<sup>11</sup>
- Investing in outcomes linked with reductions in health and educational disparities<sup>3,11,12</sup>



Schools are the healthiest place to eat for kids.<sup>5</sup> Participation in school nutrition benefits child health by:

- Improving:
  - Rates of mental illness including anxiety and depression<sup>6</sup>
  - Overall behavioral health and reducing classroom disruptive behaviors<sup>6</sup>
  - Reducing rates of overweight and obesity<sup>2</sup>



### **HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL COALITION**

#### The time for nationwide Healthy School Meals for All is now.





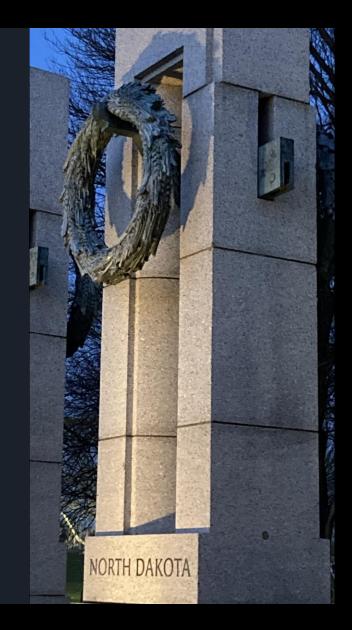
# Spread the Word!

Put in a good word about the better nutrition coming through:

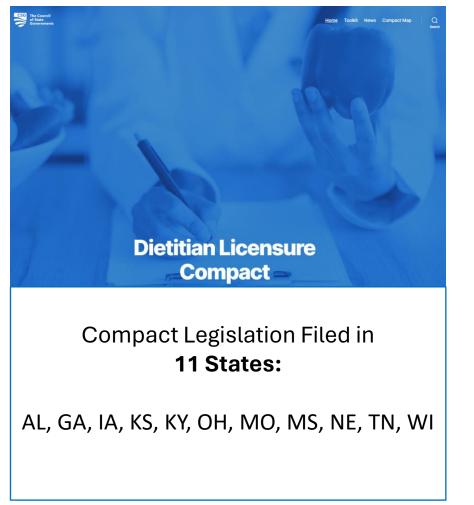
- School Meals
- No charge for school lunches and breakfasts for families who qualify for free and reduced price meals in North Dakota
- Summer EBT
- WIC

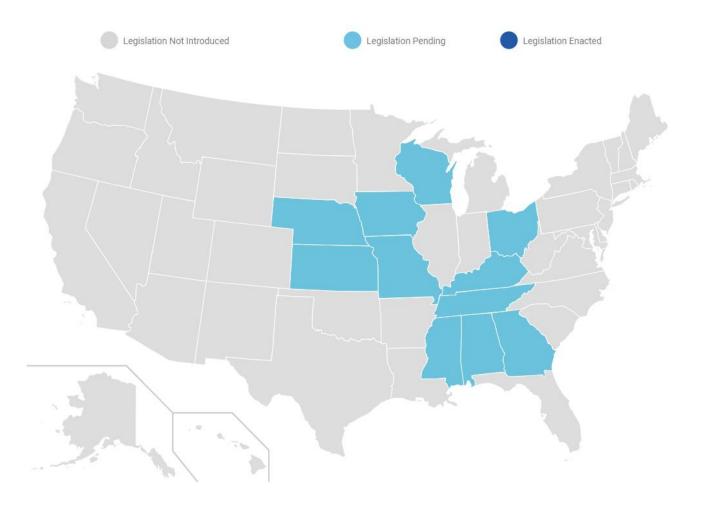


#### A bit of ND here in DC



## **Dietitian Licensure Compact**





https://dietitianscompact.org/

Academy Staff Contacts: Charla Burill and Lisa Eaton-Wright

## Payment: Advocacy

**Regulatory Comments and Letters** 

Payment Cuts and Advocacy

Medicaid

Food as Medicine

Academy Staff Contacts: Carly Leon and Kim Iles

## How you can take part and help...



Sign up to be added to the Academy's monthly Public Policy Newsletter distribution list, <u>Public Policy News sign-up (google.com)</u>

## Get informed and involved

✓ Use your voice ✓ Connect with Join the fellow members Academy's Advocacy ✓ Advance top policy issues Affinity Groups ✓ Make a difference in the future of our profession

#### Licensure Initiatives Affinity Group

Meets the second Tuesday of every month from 3-4 p.m. (Eastern Time)

#### MNT Expansion Affinity Group

Meets the first Tuesday of every month from 3:30-4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time)

#### Nutrition Security Affinity Group

Meets the first Wednesday of every month from 4-5 p.m. (Eastern Time)

#### Payment and Reimbursement Affinity Group

Meets the fourth Tuesday of every month, 2-3 p.m. (Eastern Time)

## **Take Action!**

#### eatrightpro.org/advocacy/take-action/action-alerts

**Take Action** 

#### **Action Alerts**

**Grassroots Resources** 

State Legislative Tracking Map

Nutrition and Dietetics Advocacy Summit

What Is a Political Action Committee?

Home > Advocacy > Take Action > Action Alerts

#### **Action Alerts**

Amplify the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' voice for better food, nutrition and health policies. Action alerts allow us to bring the Academy's policy issues to the attention of members of Congress and help to raise awareness and add legitimacy to a particular priority issue. Available to both Academy members and the public, it literally only takes a minute to support specific bills or topics, share your view with your elected officials and advocate for strong nutrition policy.

Action Alerts are announced via *Eat Right Weekly* and Latest News, posted to social media, shared with dietetic practice groups, member interest groups and affiliate associations, and may be emailed to all or some Academy members, depending on geographic location or specialty. (Members who promote Action Alerts to non-members may use this link to the Public Advocacy Action Center.)

Take Action (Members)



AC now #ACTnowforMNT

#### Show your support!

Learn more and get involved: eatrightPRO.org/ACTnowforMNT **eqt**<sup>•</sup> Academy of Nutrition **right.** and Dietetics

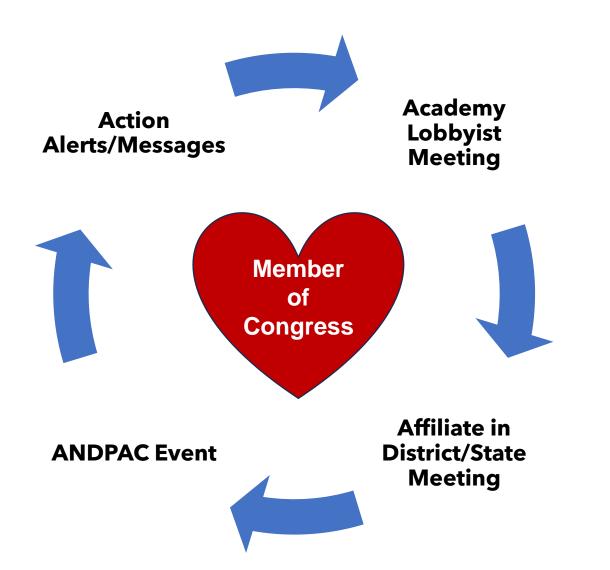
 A – complete the Academy's MNT Act Action Alert

✓ C – Contribute \$5 to ANDPAC

T – Tell 5 people to take the public Action Alert

Lead Staff member: Jeanne Blankenship

## ANDPAC – the Power of a Hug!



ANDPAC helps to get a seat at the table

- ANDPAC is non-partisan and the only political action committee broadly focused on food, nutrition and health, supporting pro-nutrition candidates for federal office
- ANDPAC uses donations not Academy dues — to support political candidates for federal congressional office and who are aligned the Academy's mission, vision and public policy priorities
- Attend an event:
- ANDPAC Event Request Form Form by Asana



# Thank you!

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