

UPDATES FROM PUBLIC POLICY COORDINATOR,  
STATE REGULATORY SPECIALIST,  
DELEGATE

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2021 State Advocacy Day

Maryland Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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Public Policy Coordinator

# OBJECTIVES

For this session's segment, we will:

- Discuss the rationale for Public Policy
- Explain the power of grassroots advocacy
- Describe the roles and responsibilities of the Public Policy Coordinator
- Examine some current federal legislation
- Promote how we can stimulate policy change



# RATIONAL FOR THE PUBLIC POLICY PANEL

- Public policy and advocacy are core functions of the Academy and are critical to achieving its' mission, vision and goals.
- Public policy significantly shapes the public image of the Academy.
  - shapes the nutrition and dietetics profession
  - positions *registered dietitian nutritionists* and *nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered*, as the food and nutrition experts.
- Advocacy efforts enhance the value of the RDN and NDTR credentials
- It brings nutrition professionals to the forefront of the policy process by supporting enactment of effective legislation and regulations that support the Academy's priorities.



## THE POWER OF GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

The power of grassroots advocacy can be extremely effective when dietitians come together

Example: Improved Medicare and Medicaid coverage for dietetics' licensure

Advocates use their voices at the local, state and federal levels to make a difference in shaping the future of our profession and America's Health.

As nutrition experts, it is up to us to advocate for our profession

We must use our collective voice on critical health and nutrition policies

Share our personal experiences in practice

So that legislators and regulators are more likely to have the information they need to create and implement sound legislation or regulation that supports our profession and our community.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PUBLIC POLICY COORDINATOR (PPC)

- Educates and engages affiliate members on federal legislation and public policy issues
- Coordinates grassroots activities
- The role of PPC is to connect the Academy's Policy Initiatives and Advocacy staff and affiliate leaders.
  - Meets with members of Congress and their staff, report findings back to Policy Initiatives and Advocacy staff, the affiliate board and the PPP
- The PPC is encouraged to lead and facilitate the public policy panel meetings and is responsible for annual submission of the affiliate public policy plan of work to Academy

- Affiliate Board of Directors, PPP, and leaders including President
- U.S. Senators and Representatives and their staff
- Academy Policy Initiatives and Advocacy Staff
  - Manager, Grassroots and State Advocacy



KEY  
RELATIONSHIPS

## Highlights of Current Legislation

- Medical Nutrition Therapy Act, 2020
  - The MNT Act would provide Medicare coverage for medical nutrition therapy by registered dietitian nutritionists.
- The Farm Bill, 2018
  - The Farm Bill is a critical piece of legislation that determines not only what farmers grow, but what is available in the United States food supply.
  - Farm policies have existed in the U.S. since the establishment of our country



POLICY  
INITIATIVES  
AND  
ADVOCACY



- **Food Insecurity Among Active Duty Service Members and Veterans**

- Introduced in 2016
- Active duty military personnel, veterans and their families are part of a growing number of people using government food assistance programs to help make ends meet.

- **Prevention and Public Health Fund**

- The Prevention and Public Health Fund was authorized in the Affordable Care Act to address a critical gap in our nation's investment in public health.

- **Treat and Reduce Obesity Act**


- First Introduced: 2013
- Latest Action: Re-introduced as "Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2019" (H.R. 1530/S.595)
- The Treat and Reduce Obesity Act offers clinically- and cost-effective solutions to the obesity epidemic

Go to [EatRightPro.Org/Advocacy](https://EatRightPro.Org/Advocacy) for a list and explanation of other key legislation



POLICY  
INITIATIVES  
AND  
ADVOCACY

- Submit with **Action Alerts**
- Facilitate **virtual meetings** with members of Congress
- Attend **townhall meetings** with members of Congress
- Participate in **committee meetings** of various organizations
- **Collaborate** with other public health organizations



HOW TO  
STIMULATE  
CHANGE

**BARBARA HOFFSTEIN, RDN, LDN**

State Regulatory Specialist

# OVERVIEW

For this session's segment, we will:

- Discuss the job of the SRS
- Explore what is a Regulation in relation to a law
- Examine the Maryland Health Occupations Article:
  - Maryland Licensed Dietitian Nutrition Act
- Highlight what we worked on in 2020- 2021

# ROLES OF THE STATE REGULATORY SPECIALIST

- Monitor State Regulatory Activity
  - Maryland Insurance Administration
  - Maryland Department of Health's Office of Health Care Quality (Long Term Care, Assisted Living)
  - Monitor Maryland Register & Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)
  - Maryland Board of Dietetic Practice
- Participate in [Public Policy Panel & Board Meetings](#)
- Participate in MAND [Advocacy Day](#)
- Work with MAND lobbyist
  - Participate in state regulatory boards, state meetings related to health care reform
  - Prepare comments, letters, etc to elected officials, state regulatory boards, and state agency directors.
- Attend Academy Public Policy [Webinars & Training](#)

## WHAT IS A REGULATION

- Laws
- Regulations are written afterwards and put in the details
- Maryland Health Occupations Code
  - Title 5 Licensed Dietitian-Nutritionists
  - Written in 2012



## SRS WORK 2020-2021

- Maryland Insurance Administration
  - Network Adequacy Regulations Workgroup
- Maryland State Board of Dietetic Practice
  - Telehealth & Therapeutic Diet Orders added to our scope of practice on our Licensing Act
- MAND & PPP Monthly Meetings plus Academy Public Policy Webinars

ARNETTA FLETCHER, PHD, RDN,  
LDN

Delegate



# OVERVIEW

During this session's segment, we will:

- Discuss roles of the delegate
- Identify ways to use your voice
- Introduce 2020- 2021 Critical Issue

## POSITION OVERVIEW OF DELEGATE

- Represents MAND in AND's House of Delegates
- Serves as a liaison between the Academy and MAND Members
- Works closely with Executive Leadership Team, Communications Chair and Public Policy
  - Discuss strategic issues prioritized by the Academy
  - Disseminate messages and gather feedback from MAND Members
  - Advocate for prioritized issues on behalf of AND and MAND membership
- Incorporates Interests and Area of Expertise into Position
  - RDPG, NDEP, NOBIDAN

# DELEGATE'S ROLE IN POLICY AND ADVOCACY

- Serves as an ex-officio member of the PPP
- Primary responsibilities
  - Communicate and encourage member participation in food, nutrition, and health policy initiatives or activities and action alerts
  - Provide insight from affiliate perspective on policy-related impact on strategic or professionals issues discussed by the HOD
- Key relationships
  - Academy House of Delegates Leadership Team
  - Affiliate Board, PPP, and affiliate leaders
- Contacts include HOD Director and HOD Governance

# USING YOUR VOICE



**Provide feedback on  
Critical Issues**



**Provide feedback during  
comment periods for  
bylaws and other areas**



**Watch for and participate  
in Academy updates and  
calls to action**

**Members**  
**Delegates**  
**Board of Directors**  
**Council on Future Practice**  
**Academy Committees**

**Knowledge-Based Strategic Decision-Making**

# Critical Issues

Aligns with Strategic Plan and Impact Goals

Specialized or Practice-based

Importance across multiple discipline areas

May impact a subset of practice areas

3/+ years potential impact

Immediate impact

**RECOMMENDATIONS**



## Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities and Chronic Disease Issue Brief



## Introduction

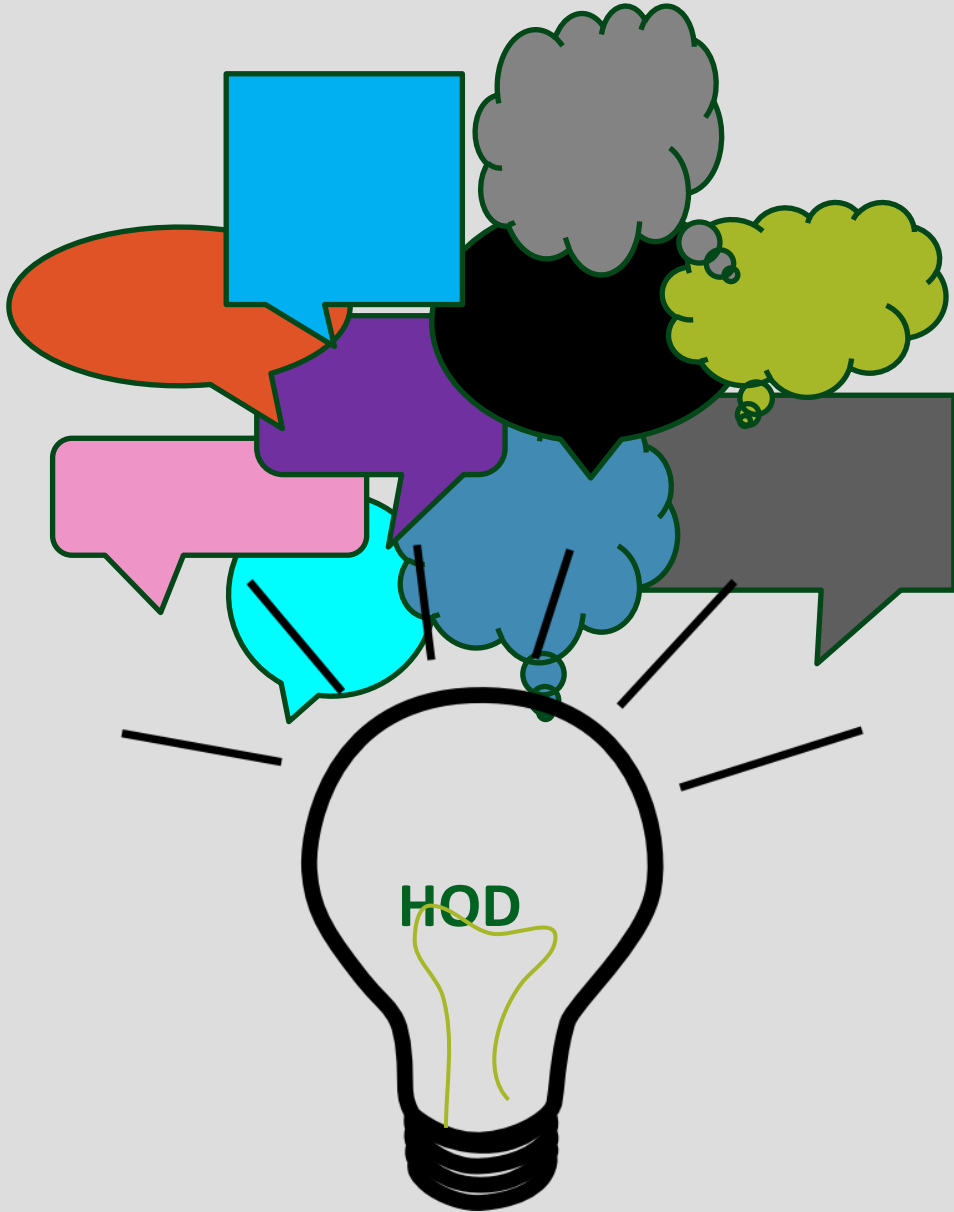
This issue brief was created to educate Academy members about racial and ethnic health disparities in chronic diseases and policy opportunities to address these issues. The brief:

- Highlights the disproportionate impact of chronic diseases on minority populations
- Outlines how the social determinants of health have contributed to health disparities among minority populations
- Provides federal policy recommendations to support diversity in allied health education programs and strengthen our response to racial and ethnic health disparities.

## Overview

The most recent U.S. Census reports that approximately 40 percent of the U.S. population belong to a racial or ethnic minority group. Many minority populations in the United States have long faced chronic disease health disparities due to socioeconomic inequities, barriers to education, systemic racism, insufficient access to health care, as well as limited access to healthful and affordable foods and safe places to be active. The historical practice of redlining and subsequent racial segregation across the country that remains today also has impacts on economic stability, educational access, and neighborhood and built environment. These systemic inequities contribute to racial disparities in chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes, some cancers and obesity.<sup>1</sup>

# HOD Think Tank



- Diversity of views
- Increase member engagement
- Leadership





QUESTIONS?

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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- Helene Fletcher, President
- Teresa Turner, President Elect
- Dr. Glenda L. Lindsey, Public Policy Coordinator
- Barbara Hoffstein, State Regulatory Specialist
- Dr. Arnetta Fletcher, Delegate
- Sharon Hawks, Business and Reimbursement Division Chair
- Susan O' Malley, State Policy Representative
- Amy Goldsmith, Consumer Protection Coordinator
- Jennifer Christman, Public Relations Chair
- Barbara Marx Brocato and Associates
  - Barbara Marx Brocato, Founder and President
  - Daniel E. Shattuck, Lobbyist