

Sample Legislative Letter

The Honorable _____
California State Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol, Room _____

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 486 (SOLIS), as amended 10/6/04: Assembly Health Committee

Dear Assembly Member _____

My name is _____ and I am a Nutrition and Dietetics student at California State University, Northridge. I am writing to you about an issue of concern and importance to me.

I urge your ‘AYE’ vote for Senate Bill 486. This bill will assure that the cost-effective services of Registered Dietitians (RD) and other qualified nutrition professionals can continue to be reimbursed upon the referral of a licensed physician and surgeon.

This bill would maintain the physician and surgeon as the gatekeeper and would coordinate with the insurance code (10176.25), which permits health and disability insurers to reimburse dietitians or registered dietitians who provide services prescribed by a physician. It is important to note that SB 486 does not mandate direct reimbursement as a new, state-only benefit under the Medical program, nor does it mandate reimbursement if prohibited by federal law.

SB 486 would provide an alternative to creating a new traditional licensing board. SB 486 is necessary because state and federal health care programs or proposals may specify the inclusion of “state licensed health care providers.” Since California does not license Registered Dietitians or other nutrition professionals, this could operate to exclude these allied health professionals as a matter of law from the health care environment. Such restrictions would deprive the public from beneficial, cost-effective dietetic care which has proven appropriate therapy for many diagnosed illnesses; it is also effective in promoting health and preventing disease.

For these reasons, I urge your “AYE” vote on SB 486 when it is voted upon in the Assembly Health Committee.

Sincerely,

Home address: