



March 30, 2026

The Honorable Justin Brown  
Chair, Senate Committee on Emerging Issues and Professional Registration  
Missouri Senate  
201 W. Capitol Ave.  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**RE: ATA ACTION SUPPORT OF HB 1961**

Dear Chair Brown,

On behalf of ATA Action, I am writing to express strong support for HB 1961, which would enact the Dietitian Licensure Compact, establish reciprocity pathways for out-of-state dietitians, and create a nonrenewable temporary license for first-time applicants in Missouri.

ATA Action, the American Telemedicine Association's affiliated trade association focused on advocacy, advances policy to ensure all individuals have permanent access to telehealth services across the care continuum. Recognizing that integrating nutrition services into virtual care models can have transformative impacts on health outcomes and reduce healthcare costs, ATA Action launched the Virtual Foodcare Coalition to support the enactment of state and federal telehealth policies that expand access to foodcare.

The Dietitian Licensure Compact is an interstate compact designed to facilitate care from dietitians across state boundaries. By providing for licensure portability through a Compact Privilege granted to qualifying professionals, the Compact allows dietitians to practice in multiple states without having to obtain additional state licenses. This Compact also preserves the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure.

Increasing dietitians' ability to practice across state lines is particularly important to enabling increased access to telehealth care, which will only serve to benefit Missouri patients. Furthermore, the Compact can also help address provider shortages, particularly within underserved populations, disadvantaged communities, and those who are geographically isolated.

ATA Action is also pleased to support the additional provisions in HB 1961 that go beyond the Compact itself. The bill's reciprocity provision which allows dietitians licensed in good standing in another state for at least one year to apply for Missouri licensure through a streamlined process is a practical complement to the Compact that will reduce unnecessary administrative burden for experienced practitioners. Together, the Compact and reciprocity provisions give Missouri a comprehensive framework for attracting and retaining dietitian talent from across the country, including via telehealth.

**ATA ACTION**

601 13th St NW, 12th Floor Washington, DC 20005  
Info@ataaction.org



ATA Action is pleased to see Missouri take this step toward adopting the Compact while also addressing broader workforce access through these complementary provisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We urge the committee to advance HB 1961 to enact the Dietitian Licensure Compact. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss ATA Action's perspective on this critical issue, please contact me at [hyoung@ataaction.org](mailto:hyoung@ataaction.org).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hunter Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hunter Young  
Head of State Government Relations  
ATA Action