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**Junk Food Industry Supported Bill Seeks Nutrition Monopoly**

*Nevada legislature considering a bill that would end access to highly qualified Nutritionists*

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May 9, 2011 – This Wednesday the Nevada Senate Commerce, Labor and Energy Committee will hold a hearing on AB 289 a bill that the Alliance for Natural Health USA and Nevada Nutritionists believe will effectively create a monopoly on nutrition services for dietitians, denying Nevada residents access to expert advice from nutritionists, some of the most highly educated and well-respected professionals in the field of nutrition.

“We have seen the Coca-Cola and Hersey’s sponsored American Dietetic Association write and introduce these bills below the radar around the country in an attempt to monopolize nutrition services. ANH-USA, Nevada nutritionists and our members in the state are vehemently opposed to this bill that would put the health of Nevadans at risk,” said Gretchen DuBeau executive and legal director of ANH-USA.

According to ANH-USA the bill states that only an American Dietetic Association (ADA) licensed dietitian shall practice a wide range of nutrition services including performing nutritional assessments and nutrition monitoring, counseling and evaluation, all of which fall in the scope of practice of a nutritionist.

“The junk food company sponsored ADA’s legislation makes no secret about the intent of their legislation, the bill explicitly states that an individual cannot use the words ‘licensed nutritionist’ or ‘L.N.’ unless they complete the program for dietitians. This ignores the vast philosophical difference between nutritionists

and dietitians, which are two entirely different fields of study and practice,” said DuBeau.

ANH-USA believes the negative implications of AB 289 are far reaching.

- **It is bad for the Nevada economy:** This bill would effectively eliminate an entire profession and removes all competition in the field of nutrition services.
- **It dampens freedom of choice in healthcare:** Nutritionists and dietitians have entirely different philosophical approaches. Each individual has unique nutritional needs. This demands various different approaches to nutritional care and consequently individuals require access to choice, not just a one-size-fits-all approach.
- **It threatens to increase chronic health problems:** Nutritionists practice an integrative approach to medicine and concentrate on prevention and treatment of chronic disease. Public policy demands that access to nutritionists should be broadened, not reduced. There are not enough dietitians to meet the needs of Nevada.
- **It penalizes a higher standard of education and training:** Standards and requirements for the practice of nutritionists are most often much higher than the standards for dietitians described in this bill. For example, Certified Nutrition Specialists certified by the Certification Board for Nutrition Specialists (CBNS) have a Master's degree at a minimum, usually a Ph.D., yet are excluded by this bill unless they meet the lower credentialing requirements required of dietitians.

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**About the Alliance for Natural Health USA (ANH-USA) ▪ <http://anh-usa.org>**

The Alliance for Natural Health USA is part of an international organization dedicated to promoting natural, sustainable healthcare through good science and good law. We protect the right of natural health practitioners to practice, and the right of consumers to choose the healthcare options and treatment modalities they prefer, including

complementary and alternative medicine. As a membership-based organization, we unite consumers, practitioners, and industry to speak with a common voice and have worked since 1992 to shift the medical paradigm from an exclusive focus on surgery, drugs and other conventional techniques to an “integrative” approach incorporating food, dietary supplements and lifestyle changes.