

Making Policy our Passion: State and Federal Nutrition Efforts

KRISTEN F. GRADNEY, MHA, RDN, LDN

KATHRYN FAKIER, MS, RDN, CSO, LDN



AND/LAND PPC



Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Policy and Framework

Legislative and Public Policy Committee

- Helps guide AND's public policy work
- Reports to AND's Board of Directors and House of Delegates
- Receives positions and guidance of other Academy committees, task forces, workgroups
- Currently convening a task force to conduct a health care environmental scan and recommend changes to policy

ANDPAC

- The only political action committee broadly focused on food, nutrition and health
- The goal of ANDPAC is to support pro-nutrition candidates for federal office
- Eatrightpro.org/ANDPAC

Affiliates' Public Policy Panel

- Established to engage members to affect positive policy change for our profession
- Allows for each affiliate to be a voice on policy at the local, state and federal level

DPG/MIG Involvement




Louisiana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Advocacy

Louisiana Public Policy Committee (PPC):

- Public Policy Chair: Kristen Gradney, MHA, RDN, LDN
- State Policy Representative: Kathryn Fakier, MS, RDN, CSO, LDN
- State Regulatory Specialist: Glenda Johnson, RDN, LDN
- Consumer Protection Coordinator: Jennifer Duhon, MS, RDN, LDN
- Delegate: Sandy Sutton
- Reimbursement Representative: Open Position

LAND PPW Support: Scott Kirkpatrick - Lobbyist

- Roedel, Parsons, Koch, Blache, Balhoff, and McCollister
 - Monitors legislation to identify any bills that may involve or affect RDNs
 - Assist with legislator relationship building
- 

Ongoing Activities of the Public Policy Committee

To focus and guide policy efforts, these priority areas have been identified:

- Disease prevention and treatment
 - Lifecycle nutrition
 - Healthy food systems and access
 - Quality healthcare
-
- Monitoring legislation that involves RDNs or requires our support – sending out action alerts requesting action from members
 - Attendance at Public Policy Workshop each year to get direction from AND on national legislative efforts and training
 - Networking with legislators to inform them about our profession and the importance of an RDN

ANDPAC Support in Louisiana



State Politics



Louisiana Legislature

Structure of LA Legislature:

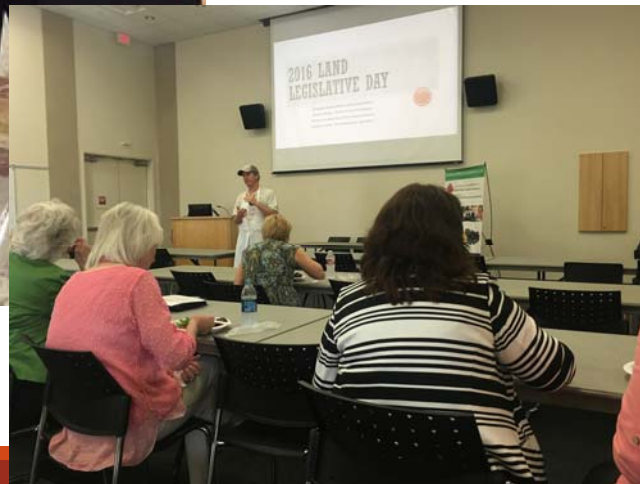
- Lower House (105)
- Upper Senate (39)

- Members of both houses serve 4 year terms with 3 term limit

- Get to Know Your Legislators
 - They are essential for developing and supporting your position on legislation.
 - Bills must have a legislator sponsor.

- [Your Louisiana and U.S. Legislators](#)

2016 LAND Legislative Day



Federal Politics



US Congress

Louisiana Senators:

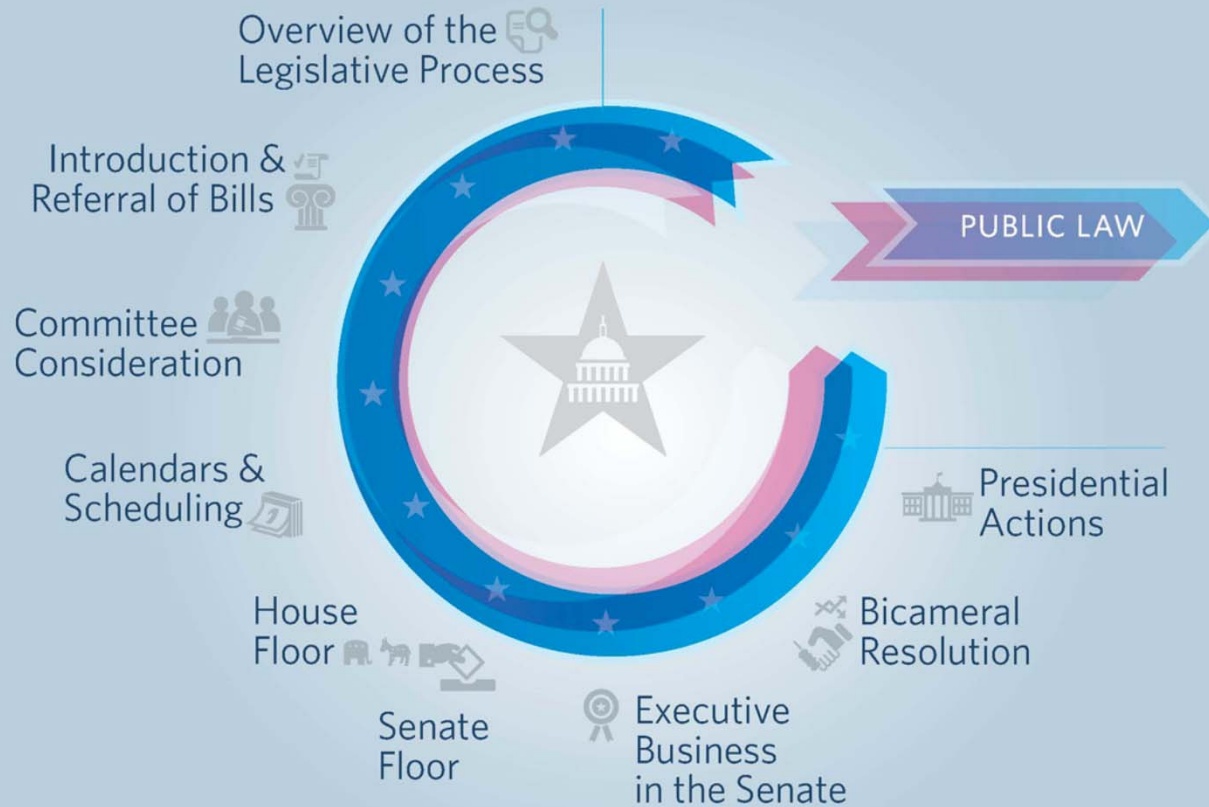
- Bill Cassidy (R)
- John Neely Kennedy (R)

Committees Involved with Nutrition and Health Related Issues:

- Senate Finance Committee
- Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 - Subcommittee on Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Food, and Agricultural Research
- Senate and House Appropriations
- House Committee on Education and Workforce
- House Committee on Agriculture
 - Subcommittee Department Operations, Oversight, and Nutrition



★ LEGISLATIVE PROCESS ★



Louisiana Congressional Districts



Current Districts and Representatives

District	Representative	Party	Incumbent time in office
<u>1st</u>	<u>Steve Scalise (R-Jefferson)</u>	<u>Republican</u>	May 3, 2008 – present
<u>2nd</u>	<u>Cedric Richmond (D-New Orleans)</u>	<u>Democratic</u>	January 3, 2011 – present
<u>3rd</u>	<u>Clay Higgins (R-Port Barre)</u>	<u>Republican</u>	January 3, 2017 – present
<u>4th</u>	<u>Mike Johnson (R-Benton)</u>	<u>Republican</u>	January 3, 2017 – present
<u>5th</u>	<u>Ralph Abraham (R-Mangham)</u>	<u>Republican</u>	January 3, 2015 – present
<u>6th</u>	<u>Garret Graves (R-Baton Rouge)</u>	<u>Republican</u>	January 3, 2015 – present



Key Presidential Appointees

Seema Verma: Administrator for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Tom Price: Secretary of Health and Human Services

Sonny Perdue: Secretary of Agriculture (USDA)

David Shulkin: Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Public Policy in Action



Public Policy that Impacts RDNs

CMS Rules on Therapeutic Diet Orders

Preventative Health Savings Act

Older Americans Act

Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act

Diabetes Prevention Legislation

- Preventing Diabetes in Medicare Act
- National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act
- Gestational Diabetes Act
- Medicare Diabetes Prevention Act

Farm Bill

Treat and Reduce Obesity Act

Access to Frontline Health Care Act

Public Health Prevention Fund

Affordable Care Act



2015

State Legislation – LAND PPC Initiatives

HB 335 Medical Malpractice:

Covers RDNs under current Louisiana Malpractice Act (Provides a limitation of liability which limits their malpractice liability to \$500,000, plus interest and costs, exclusive of future medical care and related benefits.)

Federal Legislation – AND Initiatives

- **Treat and Reduce Obesity Act**
- **Older Americans Act**
- **Preventing Diabetes in Medicare Act**

2016

State Legislation – LAND PPC Initiatives

HB 642 LBEDN:

Reduces time period of provisional license from 5 years to 2 years;
Updates maximum fee schedule

HB 595 Telehealth Bill:

Adds Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist to Telehealth Bill that covers 28 other providers

HB 579 Order Writing:

Allows RDNs, LDNs to write orders and order lab tests

Federal Legislation – AND Initiatives

Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2015

Expands the treatment team to include other demonstrably qualified experts to provide IBT, such as clinical psychologists, registered dietitians, physician specialists and other proven effective providers

Preventing Diabetes in Medicare Act HR 1686

Expands Medicare coverage of MNT in order to prevent/delay diabetes

2017 Issues at a Glance

Federal

- Debate over changes to health care delivery and payment
- Food assistance programs scrutinized (eligibility, separation of SNAP from Farm Bill)
- Immigration policies affecting food costs and availability
- Decreased regulation (narrowing of FDA, menu labeling, nursing mothers support, child nutrition programs are all at risk)
- Reintroduction of key legislation

Why We Need Your Involvement and Support

Opposition to Dietitians and Supportive Legislation

- Certified Nutrition Specialists (CNS)

Concerns from Other Disciplines

- Family Practitioners
- Chiropractors

What Can You Do?

Be a Grassroots Advocate

- Raise awareness regarding certain issues at the local level

Speak with One Voice

- An affiliate, DPG, or MIG should advocate a position consistent with the official Academy positions.

Local fundraisers for ANDPAC

Invite Your Member of Congress to Visit Your Workplace

- Notify LAND PPC so that you can receive support

Participate in your district PPC

Attend town hall meetings



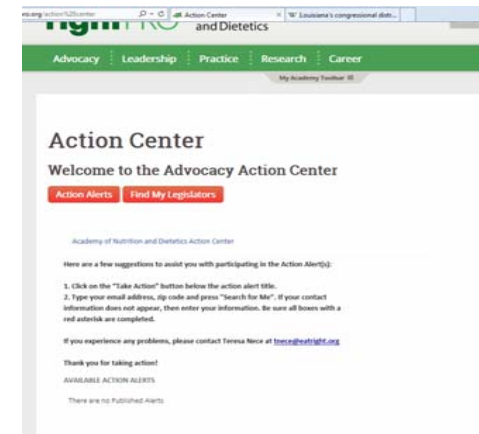
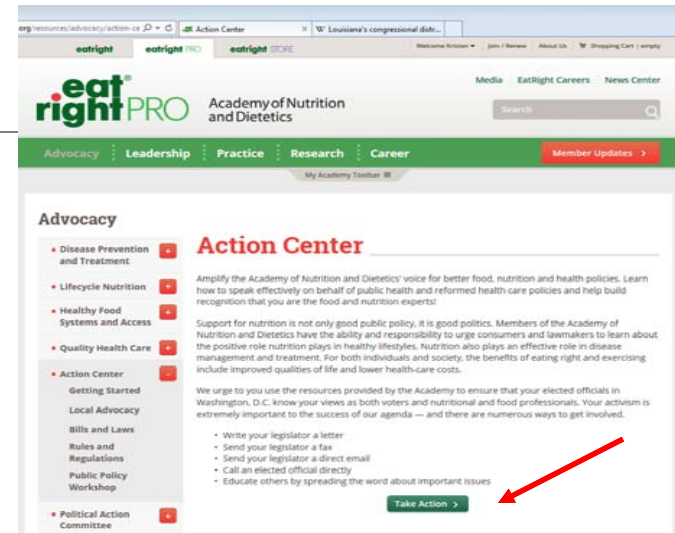
What Can You Do?

Register to Vote!

Respond to Action Alerts!

Get Involved!

- Save the Date
- May 23, 2017
- State Capitol
- More information to come: www.eatrightlouisiana.org



When Policy is Your Passion...



Resources



2017 LAND Legislative Day

**4 FREE
CEUs!**

Legislative Day
You are invited to the 2017 LAND Legislative Day at the
Capitol!

May 23, 2017
Details to follow

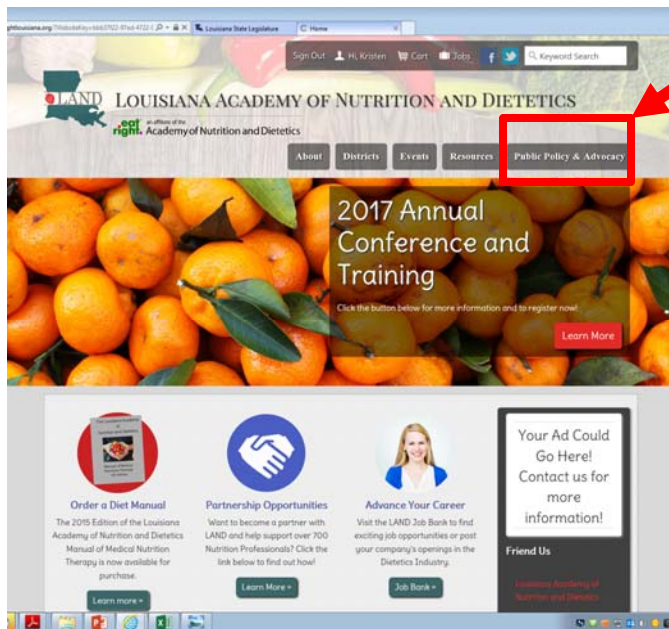
[Click here to RSVP](#)

Deadline to register is May 16, 2017

**Lunch
Served**

Resources

LAND Public Policy and
Advocacy Page



Resources

[VoteSmart.org](#)

This is a great website that allows you to find all of your elected officials; from state, county, and all the way up to the U.S. Congress.

[House.gov](#)

This is the U.S. House of Representatives' website where you can find out who your representative is, his or her vote history, legislative calendar, committee information and more.

[Senate.gov](#)

This is the U.S. Senate's website where you can find who your Senators are, their vote history, legislative calendar, committee information and more.

[Congress.gov](#)

This is the best bill-tracking website out there! Go here and you can look up any bill by number or key word. From there you can find out sponsorship information, language and a full history of legislative action.

[www.eatrightpro.org/advocacy](#)

Academy advocacy website provides updates on current policy activities.

Thank you!

Kristen F. Gradney, MHA, RDN, LDN

Kristen.Gradney@ololrmc.com

Kathryn Fakier, MS, RDN, CSO, LDN

Kathryn.fakier@ololcollege.edu

