



DIETITIAN LEGISLATIVE AMBASSADOR

Become a Dietitian Legislative Ambassador (DLA) to help build and sustain our ability to influence public policy by providing consistent contact with state legislators!

Network with RDNs who are empowered to build and maintain an ongoing, working relationship with state and federal legislators.

DETAILS

Sign up with UAND's State Policy Representative (SPR) to be a DLA for your own Utah State Representative and Senator.

Send quarterly communications to your state legislator from UAND.

Provide communications reports to the SPR when you've made contact with your legislator and/or had a request from them.

Questions or Ready to Sign Up? Email
WendyPhillips@IamMorrison.com

OVERVIEW OF DLA ACTIVITIES

QUARTERLY MESSAGES TO STATE LEGISLATORS

Content and templates provided by UAND Advocacy Pillar members

November:
"Congratulations on Election" letter

January: Healthy Tips for Legislative Session Calendar

March: National Nutrition Month announcement

July: Summer message

COORDINATE OFFICE VISITS

In-district meetings

Legislative Day visit at Salt Lake Capitol building with UAND members

Sample Welcome Letter for Newly Elected Legislator *Recommend to send welcome letter 1-2 months after election*

Dear _____,
Congratulations on your recent election to represent the legislative district _____ in the House of Representatives (or Utah Senate if appropriate). I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) and a member of the Utah Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (UAND). You can learn more about UAND by visiting our website at www.eatrightutah.org or following us on Facebook. I live in your district at _____ (list address). You will be happy to know that you have several nutrition experts amongst your constituency, as _____ RDNs and UAND members live and work in your district. Please let me know if there are any nutrition-related issues I can assist you with now or in the future.

Sincerely,

_____(Name)

_____(Title)

Sample Congratulatory Letter for Re-election

Dear _____,
Congratulations on your re-election to represent the legislative district _____ in the House of Representatives (or Utah Senate if appropriate). I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) and a member of the Utah Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (UAND). You can learn more about UAND by visiting our website at www.eatrightutah.org or following us on Facebook and Twitter. I live in your district at _____ (list address). You will be happy to know that you have several nutrition experts amongst your constituency, as _____ RDNs and UAND members live and work in your district. Please let me know if there are any nutrition-related issues I can assist you with now or in the future.

Sincerely,

_____(Name)

_____(Title)

Sample Thank You letter for outgoing legislator

Dear _____,
Thank you for your service to the state and citizens of Utah for the last _____ years as the _____ (Representative or Senator) for the _____ district. We appreciate your support of our organization, the Utah Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (UAND). You can learn more about UAND by visiting our website at www.eatrightutah.org or by following us on Facebook. Best of luck on your future endeavors!

Sincerely,

_____(Name)

_____(Title)

UAND Dietitian Legislative Ambassador Position Description

Purpose of Position: To build and sustain UAND's ability to influence public policy by providing consistent contact with state legislators

Length of Service: One (1) year appointment by the State Policy Representative. Additional subsequent terms may be appointed and served if desired.

Expected Time Commitment:

- Aug – Nov: 1-4 hours/month
- Dec – March: 3-4 hours/month plus additional time for UAND Legislative Day.
- April – July: 1-2 hours/month

Position reports to: State Policy Representative for state public policy issues, Public Policy Coordinator for federal public policy issues

An ideal Dietitian Legislative Ambassador is:

- A team player interested in grassroots advocacy.
- Effective with written, verbal and electronic communication.
- Motivated to mentor other members to participate in grassroots advocacy, and provide support and direction for their efforts.

Responsibilities:

- Keep other UAND members informed of key state and federal legislative issues.
- Organize/coordinate other UAND members to attend UAND's Legislative Day in Salt Lake City, including setting up appointments with legislators in advance of event or coordinating this activity with members who are attending.
- Organize/coordinate visits to district legislators' home offices proactively, preferably visiting their legislator at least once/year.
- Organize/coordinate electronic communication to their legislator at least quarterly using resources provided by State Policy Representative (additional communication is encouraged).
- Provide reports to state board and State Policy Representative on activity as requested.
- Update position files and orient incoming DLAs as needed.
- Respond to the Academy's Action Alerts for priority legislative efforts and encourage/mentor others to do so as well.

Desired Results: Network of members who are empowered to build and maintain an ongoing, working relationship with state and federal legislators.

Travel Requirements:

- UAND Legislative Day (if possible).

Resources:

- Conference calls with UAND policy leaders and other DLAs throughout the year.
- Resources on UAND's Member website on the Advocacy page.
- Advocacy Pillar members of the UAND board.
- Monthly updates from State Policy Representative

Benefits of volunteering in this position:

- Directly affect the health of Utahans by influencing policy and legislation related to food and nutrition.
- Gain leadership experience in volunteer recruitment and training, program development and implementation, and grassroots advocacy.
- Mentor next generation of food and nutrition policy leaders.
- Network with UAND leaders and build lasting relationships.
- Enhance professional recognition of dietitians in Utah.
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Leadership Advancement:

- Utah State Policy Representative, Public Policy Coordinator, Consumer Protection Coordinator, or other Advocacy Pillar positions.