

## Virginia Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics 2018 Legislative Day



VAND had another successful Legislative Day that brought together nearly 100 Registered Dietitians, Dietetic Technicians, dietetic interns and students on February 21<sup>st</sup> in Richmond, VA. Together, we had in-person meetings with 20 State Senators and 34 State Delegates. By the end of the day, all of the Virginia Delegates and Senators were provided with printed information about VAND and nutrition legislative priorities. We thank VAND State Policy Representative, Kelsey Eckenroth, RDN, and her team for organizing this year's successful Legislative Day.

The invited speaker this year was Stephanie Simms Hodges, MS, MPH, RDN. Stephanie is the School Nutrition Programs Grant Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Education. In the morning, attendees were provided with a briefing on the legislative priorities by VAND's Legislative Consultant, Andrew Lamar. The three nutrition legislative priorities this year were:

1. SB37 Virginia Grocery Investment Program and Fund: to provide funding for construction and rehabilitation of grocery stores in underserved communities to increase access to nutritious foods.
2. SB80 School Health Advisory Board: to establish an advisory board to advise the General Assembly and the Governor on legislation concerning health care services in schools.
3. HB50 School Meal Policies: to adopt policies prohibiting school board employees from publicly identifying or stigmatizing a student who cannot pay for a meal or who owes a school meal debt and to direct any such communication to a student's parent.

As always, attendees left recharged with public policy energy to continue their advocacy efforts in their communities and beyond. It was inspiring to see so many students and interns attend the event. I remember the first VAND Legislative Day I attended back in 2014 when I was a dietetic intern at UVA. Fast-forward four years, I had a chance to lead a team of UVA dietetic interns on their first legislative day and see them take a lead to discuss nutrition policy with legislators. We are excited to see the interest in public policy growing among students (60 students attended this year!) and young professionals, since, as the Academy's President, Donna Martin, says, "If dietetics is your profession, policy should be your passion!"



Taking a selfie with UVA interns on the way to their first legislative visit

We thank all of you who attended the 2018 VAND Legislative Day and shared their stories with Virginia legislators. If you have not attended this event in the past, we hope you join us next year to advocate for your profession and sound nutrition policy, as well as to learn more about public policy. Together, we can send a united voice to our state legislators urging them to support key nutrition-related legislation. So, let's make a difference together!

Lisa Shkoda, RDN, CSP, CNSC, FAND – VAND Assistant State Policy Representative

*–A special thank you to the 2018 Legislative Day Planning Team –*

Kelsey Eckenroth, Jillian Davis, Andrew Lamar, Lesley McPhatter, Lisa Shkoda, & District Legislative representatives – Angie Hasemann Bayliss, Kristin Crosby, Nana Oforu-Benefo, Kristen Dehr, and Sarah Dill

# VAND's Impact in Richmond



Nearly 100 VAND RDNs, NDTRs, interns & students making their voice heard and advocating for health



In the House Gallery: VCU HS interns with Crista Galvin-Cox, MS, RD, FAND (VAND President), Stephanie Stockslager, MS, RD (VCU HS DI Clinical Coordinator) and Virginia Lieutenant Governor Justin E. Fairfax



VSU Dietetic Interns with their Director, Dr. Wynn, PhD, RDN



# Thank You For Making A Difference!



UVA HS dietetic interns with their Director, Angie Hasemann Bayliss, MS, RDN, CSP



VAND dietitians and students in the House Gallery



# If Dietetics is Your Profession, Policy Should Be Your Passion!



VCU and VSU Dietetic Interns with VA State Senator Rosalyn Dance



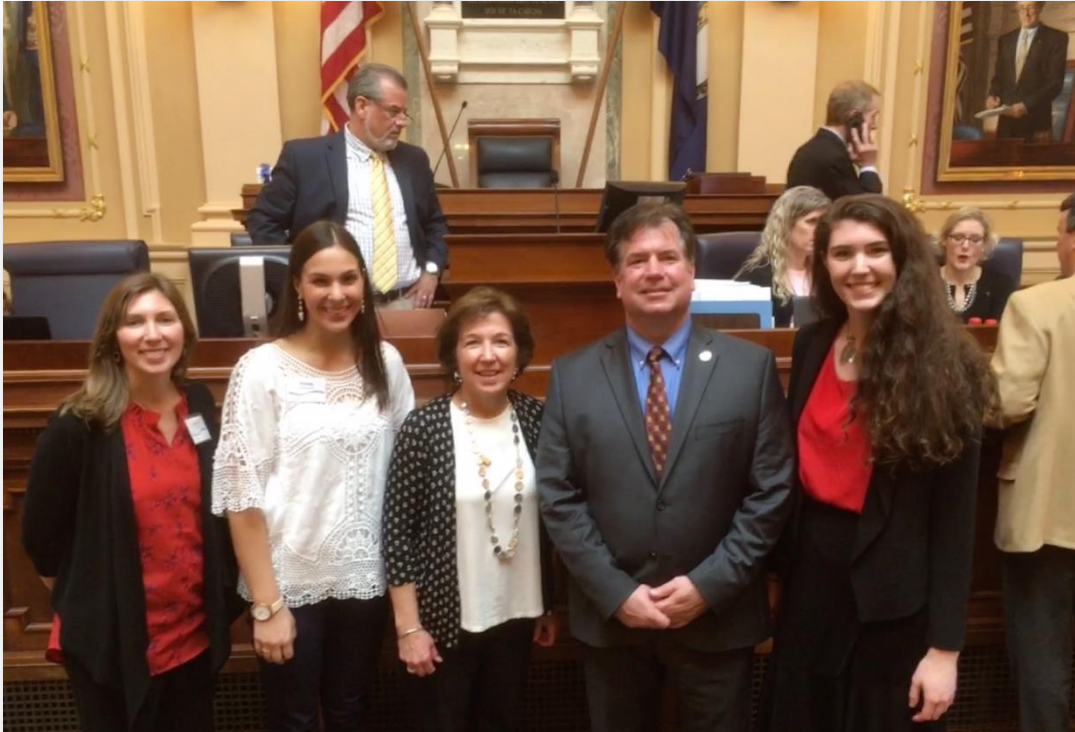
VSU dietetic interns with their Director, Dr. Wynn, PhD, RD, and VA State Delegate Roselyn Tyler



VCU HS dietetic interns with their Clinical Coordinator, Stephanie Stockslager, MS, RD



# Advocating for Sound Nutrition Policy



On the House Floor (from left to right): Jillian Davis (VAND Executive Director), Kelsey Eckenroth (VAND State Policy Representative), Jackie Darling (VAND Past-Executive Director), Delegate Tim Hugo, and Rebecca Turner (VT dietetic intern)



VA WIC dietetic interns with Mandeep Virk-Baker, PhD, MPH (State of Virginia WIC Director) & Paula Garrett (State of Virginia Nutrition Coordinator)

## VAND Members Making Their Voice Heard!



VAND's State Policy Representative, Kelsey Eckenroth, RDN, discusses nutrition policy with Delegate Mark Levine. The picture was published in Delegate's weekly newsletter.



VA State Delegate Tony Wilt with UVA HS interns, Dr. Walsh, PhD, RD (Assistant Professor at JMU), JMU student Andrea, & Lisa Shkoda, RDN (VAND Asst. State Policy Representative)



# Thank You to All Who Attended for Making Strides in Nutrition Public Policy!



## Join Us for the 2019 VAND Legislative Day!