

## Testimony of the American Diabetes Association in Support of House Bill 5536, An Act Concerning a Diabetes Action Plan

Thank you Chairman Ritter, Chairwoman Gerratana, and Committee Members for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. My name is Andrea Petite, and I am the Advocacy Chair for Connecticut for the American Diabetes Association. I write to convey the Association's support for House Bill 5536 regarding the development of a Diabetes Action Plan for Connecticut. The American Diabetes Association is the largest voluntary health association serving all people with diabetes, with a mission to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

There are nearly 350,000 people with diabetes in Connecticut, and there is an even greater number of people with prediabetes who are at high risk for developing type 2 diabetes. This legislation is important because diabetes is a leading source of complications that can be disabling or deadly – including blindness, kidney failure, lower limb amputations, heart disease, and stroke. In addition to the personal toll this disease takes, diabetes also takes a costly toll on Connecticut with \$3 billion in annual medical costs and \$1 billion in indirect costs (such as sick days).

This legislation would result in the development of a Diabetes Action Plan through the collaboration of the Department of Public Health, the Department of Social Services and the Office of the State Comptroller. The plan would provide a range of actionable items for consideration by the legislature in order to better address diabetes in the state. This plan would provide a foundation as to what the state is currently doing to address diabetes and how these efforts could be further strengthened to address the enormous fiscal and health impacts of diabetes on Connecticut.

Regarding the text of the bill, the Association suggests that language be added in section (c) to provide further context in the report:

“...(A) identify existing state programs that address the prevention, control and treatment of diabetes and analyze the effectiveness of such programs and the number of people impacted by the programs, (B) assess the financial impact of diabetes on the state, including, but not limited to, the prevalence of the disease, the financial toll or impact diabetes places on the entity in comparison to other chronic diseases and conditions, and the cost to the state for, among other things, administering the programs identified under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision,...”

Legislatures across the country are revisiting what they are doing to turn the tide on diabetes given the vast health and economic impact of this disease. The Association would appreciate your support for House Bill 5536 to make a very important step forward to better address the devastation caused by diabetes.

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The Association gratefully accepts gifts through your will.

**The Mission** of the American  
Diabetes Association is to prevent and  
cure diabetes and to improve the lives  
of all people affected by diabetes.