

February 17, 2017

**TO: Public Health Committee, CT General Assembly**

**FROM: CT Association of Directors of Health**

**RE: PB-6237 – An Act Adopting the Recommendations of the Diabetes Advisory Council**

The CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH) supports the Proposed Bill – 6237 – An Act Adopting the Recommendations of the Diabetes Advisory Council. There are many reasons for this support but most importantly, Type 2 Diabetes, is a disease that affect over 9% of the State’s Population, and if left uncontrolled can result in numerous severe health conditions. For most folks the disease is controllable thru diet and medication, and with proper education, the severe health impact of Diabetes can be prevented. The disease is widespread throughout CT and affects urban, rural and suburban populations of all ages.

During the last CGA Session the Diabetes Advisory Council was formed and their recommendations have led to a series of proposals which are reflected in this bill. Funding for prevention and control education, thru insurance reimbursement, is an important factor in controlling and reducing the impact of this disease. In the long run, as numerous evidenced based studies have validated, these educational practices will help both the patient control their chronic disease and save the Health Care System substantial monetary resources.

The proposal supports the expansion of support and insurance funding for one type of Diabetes Education Effort, titled “**Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME)**”. CADH would like the Public Health Committee to add one additional item to this bill. It regards a second type of Diabetes Education Program, titled “**Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP)**”. The DSMP is mentioned in the Diabetes Advisory Document. DSMP type programs have a somewhat different approach to Diabetes Education. To paraphrase the Advisory Report, “Live Well, is the community-based Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP), using the evidence-based curriculum developed at Stanford University. This program uses trained leaders to implement workshops in community venues such as senior centers, libraries, faith institutions, elderly housing, community centers, etc.” CADH supports the inclusion of this important community based evidenced-based program into the legislation. The State Department of Public Health has spent large sums of monies, thru CDC Chronic Disease Funding, to support the licensing and training of numerous public health workers to utilize this program for education and disease improvement. Many Local Health Department Staff, volunteers, Visiting Nurse Agencies, Hospital Education Staff, and Community Health Workers (CHW) have been trained, and are now using the protocols in this six week education program. The presentations are on-going throughout the State of Ct.

Thank you again for your time and consideration of this matter.