

February 9, 2012

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair and Committee
Senate Health Care, Human Services and Rural Health Policy Committee
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson, Chair and committee members,

The American Diabetes Association supports SB 1562 and bills requiring state agencies involved with diabetes to review and prioritize their efforts and to develop action plans to reduce the burden of diabetes. The American Diabetes Association urges you to support the proposed draft s2 amendments you have before you to ensure this important piece of legislation moves forward in Oregon.

Why should the legislature care about obesity and the growing diabetes epidemic? **Diabetes now affects more than 800,000 Oregon residents.** We commend the legislature taking the lead in the fight against diabetes and obesity in Oregon State thru HB 3486 and HB 3487 passed in 2007. HB3486 assess needs and gaps in services to develop a coordinated plan among existing services and those that are yet to be identified. HB3487 ensures all people with diabetes receive optimal care and addresses specific needs associated with reduction of body mass, cardiometabolic risk and glycemic control.

According to data from The Burden of Diabetes 2008 report from the Oregon Diabetes Control and Prevention Program. In Oregon:

- 8.2% of the adult population has diabetes - about 241,000 people.
- **Over 1/4th of kids are obese or at high risk for being obese, and for the first time ever children are being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.**
- Over 65,000 people have undiagnosed diabetes.
- Over 500,000 people have pre-diabetes.
- Over \$1.4 billion dollars is spent a year on diabetes direct and indirect cost in OR.

If we do not do something about the growing epidemic the economic cost to Oregon will be crippling. Because of this, the American Diabetes Association strives to improve public policy as it relates to diabetes. This impending epidemic signals a need to implement coordinated efforts utilizing existing services as well as those that need to be developed to effectively meet this public health challenge.

The American Diabetes Association believes this legislation to create a Diabetes Action Plan for Oregon will provide a more balanced and comprehensive approach to address the costs of diabetes and influence positive public policy to reduce the impact on people with diabetes, social and economic burden of diabetes in Oregon.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at email: lkeller@diabetes.org or: 206-295-5532, or the ADA lobbyist, Elise Brown, at ebrown5722@comcast.net.

Sincerely,



Laura Keller
Director State Government Relations