

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
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The Honorable Diana DeGette  
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The Honorable Susan Collins  
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Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Reed  
Longworth House Office Building  
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Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2022

Dear Chairs of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus:

The Diabetes Advocacy Alliance (DAA) applauds the ongoing work of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus in championing legislation that seeks to improve access to care and health outcomes for people with diabetes, prediabetes, and obesity. Since 2010, the DAA has worked with the Congressional Diabetes Caucus to increase awareness of, and action on, the diabetes epidemic and to support the Caucus's priorities. The DAA is diverse in scope, with its [28 members](#) representing patient, professional and trade associations, other non-profit organizations, and corporations, all united in the desire to change the way diabetes is viewed and treated in America.

For the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, the DAA has prioritized the advancement of bipartisan and bicameral legislation that can reduce health disparities in cardiometabolic care, apply specifically to Medicare Part B, and focus on preventing chronic diseases and chronic disease-related complications. The bills include the *Expanding Access to Diabetes Self-Management Training Act* (S. 2203, H.R. 5804), the *PREVENT DIABETES Act* (S. 2173, H.R. 2807), the *Treat and Reduce Obesity Act* (S. 596, H.R. 1577), and the *Medical Nutrition Therapy Act* (S. 1536, H.R. 3108). Each of these bills aims to address the barriers to care for Medicare beneficiaries living with chronic metabolic conditions, which have only led to increased health care costs for the Medicare program.

Importantly, the policies these bills would establish are recommended by the recent National Clinical Care Commission's (NCCC's) report – [Leveraging Federal Programs to Prevent and Control Diabetes and Its Complications](#) – to Congress. As you know, the NCCC, comprised of federal government agency officials and stakeholder experts, was directed by Congress to provide evidence-based recommendations to improve and streamline federal diabetes policies related to awareness, prevention, and treatment programs.

Specifically, the NCCC recommends improving access to diabetes self-management training by implementing the policy changes included in the *Expanding Access to Diabetes Self-Management Training Act*. As would be accomplished by the *PREVENT DIABETES Act*, the NCCC recommends that Congress promote coverage for all proven-effective modes of delivery (*e.g.*, in-person, online, and distance learning [telehealth]) for evidence-based interventions that produce successful participant outcomes that meet or exceed those of the National Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) quality standards. The NCCC also recommends that all federal agencies that directly deliver or influence the delivery of medical care implement the 2019 American Medical Association proposed prediabetes quality measures, which can

include the referral of patients with prediabetes for medical nutrition therapy by a registered dietitian as would be covered by Medicare under the *Medical Nutrition Therapy Act*.

These bills also align with the NCCC's overarching recommendations focused on establishing a national diabetes strategy, prioritizing health equity, and ensuring that people at risk for or with diabetes have access to comprehensive, high-quality, and affordable health care. In addition, the report supports other key Caucus priorities including funding research and programs such as the Special Diabetes Program and streamlining and harmonizing the National DPP and Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program.

As the Congressional Diabetes Caucus looks to address chronic care and eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities, we encourage you to consider the abovementioned bipartisan and bicameral legislation as part of your key legislative priorities to advance during this Congress. We appreciate all that you are doing, and we stand ready to be of any assistance to your efforts.

Sincerely,



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