

Advocacy Accomplishments – 2011 Highlights



<p>Inspired Advocates to Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Association celebrated its first full year of the Advocates in Action initiative, which continues to build capacity in local communities across the nation to engage people affected by diabetes in advocacy. Both new and seasoned Diabetes Advocates were supported to get involved via a calendar of advocacy activities ranging from efforts to keep kids safe at school, to recess meetings with Members of Congress, to submitting letters to editors and speaking to local community groups.
<p>Called on Congress to Stop Diabetes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 200 Diabetes Advocates stormed Capitol Hill in March for the Association’s bi-annual Call to Congress: Stop Diabetes. In addition to over 250 meetings with Members of Congress and their staff to talk about funding for diabetes research and programs and to seek additional members of the Congressional Diabetes Caucuses, the Association was featured in a press event on the Affordable Care Act’s impact on people with chronic diseases. Attendees also participated in training and planning session as part of their pledge to continue as advocacy leaders in their local communities.
<p>Strengthened Our Voice in Washington, DC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Association raised its presence in Washington, DC through six Congressional briefings on issues ranging from diabetes research to launching our gestational diabetes bill; testimony by Chair of the Board John Griffin before the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee on primary prevention; and the thousands of Advocates who made their voices heard through online action alerts and Call into Congress days. A Presidential Proclamation was issued on American Diabetes Month followed by a resolution in the Senate and public service announcements recorded by over 30 Members of Congress.
<p>Protected the Affordable Care Act</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Association’s tireless efforts to protect the Affordable Care Act and to ensure that it is implemented in ways that best meet the needs of those with, and at risk for, diabetes, included over thirty letters and formal comments to Congress and the Administration as well as numerous briefings and meetings with high level officials. Among our successes are inroads in funding the National Diabetes Prevention Program through Medicaid and Medicare, and a Congressional recommendation of \$10 million dollars in funding; free screening for gestational diabetes in all pregnant women between 24 and 28 weeks of gestation and at the first prenatal visit for pregnant women identified to be at high risk for diabetes.
<p>Led the Fight for Workplace Fairness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Association continued its leadership role in promoting equal employment opportunity for people with diabetes. Culminating years of effort, new federal regulations contain strong provisions solidifying that people with diabetes are protected from discrimination. And, under the leadership of Dr. Robert Henry, President, Science & Medicine, the Association collaborated with the State Department to develop medical clearance standards for Foreign Service officers with insulin-treated diabetes – ending a blanket ban and providing a model for other federal agencies.

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<p>Expanded the Safe at School Campaign</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Safe at School Campaign continued to protect the health and educational opportunities of children with diabetes across the country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Trained volunteers conducted over 200 workshops for parents and school personnel. – The Association’s lawsuit regarding access to insulin was briefed in the California Supreme Court with an impressive list of federal and state agencies, diabetes experts, school and civil rights advocates filing briefs in support of the Association’s position that trained school personnel should be allowed to help students with diabetes. – The Association continued its opposition to the growing practice of school districts’ segregating students with diabetes in special schools in order to receive diabetes care, buoyed by support from the federal Departments of Justice and Education and a Florida administrative law judge’s determination the practice constitutes unlawful discrimination. – A more aggressive marketing and communications platform around our school efforts included a radio press tour aired by over 2000 radio stations and network affiliates, reaching an estimated 5 million listeners; a news release published by over 700 media outlets; and increased visibility throughout the Association’s print, direct mail, on-line, and social media outlets.
<p>Provided Guidance on Diabetes and Driving</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new position statement on diabetes and driving will provide critical guidance to state driver licensing agencies on appropriately assessing the fitness of drivers with diabetes, combating state policies that vary wildly and are sometimes unfair.
<p>Sounded a Call to Action for Those at High Risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Association partnered with the National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians, which organized a symposium, Diabetes in Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders: A Call to Action. As a result, a coalition has been launched to focus on the impact of diabetes in these communities that have been hit so hard by diabetes.
<p>Fought Threats to Diabetes Care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As one example of numerous successful efforts to prevent reductions in insurance benefits at the state level, Washington State was posed to severely restrict the access to glucose monitoring for children covered by state plans – an action that was being watched around the country – until a sustained advocacy effort resulted in an expansion of access for these vulnerable children.
<p>Raised Support and Awareness to Stop Diabetes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetes Advocates from across the country joined our first Advocates in Action National Step Out Team. Forty-three teams of Advocates stepped out and spoke up about the need to make sure public policies and public funding match up to the seriousness of diabetes as a costly and deadly disease – all while raising funds to support the Association’s mission.