

## 2012 Legislative Priorities

*These priorities include both legislative and regulatory work that the Association does in the areas identified below.*

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### Federal Priorities

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#### Federal Funding for Diabetes Research and Programs

- Increase funding for the National Institutes of Health's *National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases* and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Division of Diabetes Translation*.
- Reauthorization of *Special Diabetes Programs* for type 1 research and programs in Native American/Alaska Native communities.
- Funding for the *National Diabetes Prevention Program* to support community-based programs to prevent type 2 diabetes (as authorized in the Affordable Care Act).
- Seek innovative ways to increase the overall federal funding dedicated to diabetes research and prevention.

#### Health Reform Defense & Implementation

- Defend the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* against attempts to repeal or weaken the law and ensure it is implemented in ways that best meet the needs of people with diabetes and prediabetes.

#### Prevention

- Focus on primary prevention of type 2 diabetes for individuals with prediabetes.

#### Health Disparities

- *Eliminating Disparities in Diabetes Prevention and Access to Care Act* addressing racial and ethnic disparities.

#### Research and Surveillance

- **Stem Cell Research** – Support proposals that enhance federal funding for stem cell research in accordance with ethical standards and oppose restrictions.
- **Gestational Diabetes Act** – Support expansion of screening, diagnosis, data collection and treatment of women with gestational diabetes and their children.

#### Health Entitlement Programs – Medicare and Medicaid

- Protect and expand these programs to meet the needs of people with diabetes and prediabetes.

#### Prevention

- Focus on primary prevention of type 2 diabetes in the general public, including nutrition and physical activity.

#### Discrimination Issues

- Oppose proposals that would result in discrimination against people with diabetes. (No significant legislative activity is anticipated in this area in 2012, but would become a priority if defensive action is necessary.)

#### Bills Related to Complications and Comorbidities of Diabetes

- Each bill will be assessed based on its merit, relevance to diabetes, impact, and Association policy.

#### National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act

- Creates a commission to better coordinate and evaluate clinical care for diabetes and develop recommendations on diabetes care.

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### State Priorities

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#### Health Insurance

- **Diabetes Cost Reduction Acts** – Oppose efforts to repeal or create loopholes in laws in 46 states and the District of Columbia mandating diabetes coverage in state-regulated insurance plans.
- **Implementation of Affordable Care Act** – Ensure federal health reform legislation is implemented at the state level in ways that best meet the needs of people with diabetes and prediabetes.
- **Medicaid** – Fight cutbacks to Medicaid that decrease access to care and coverage of diabetes supplies and treatment.

#### Discrimination Issues

- **Safe at School** – Ensure students with diabetes are medically safe and have access to the same educational opportunities as peers without diabetes. Legislation focuses on:
  - Permitting students who are able to do so to self-manage their disease.
  - Making sure trained school personnel are available to perform routine and emergency diabetes care tasks.
  - Prohibiting segregation based on diabetes.
- **Private Driver's Licenses** – Oppose laws and policies with blanket treatment of people with diabetes.

#### Prevention

- Focus on primary prevention of type 2 diabetes including nutrition and physical activity.

#### Research and Surveillance

- **Diabetes Prevention and Control Programs** – Support funding for public health programs that monitor diabetes prevalence, implement and evaluate diabetes interventions, and promote public awareness about diabetes.
- **Stem Cell Research** – Support proposals that enhance funding for stem cell research in accordance with ethical standards and oppose restrictions.

#### Diabetes Action Plans

- Support bills requiring state agencies involved with diabetes to review and prioritize their efforts and develop action plans.

#### Bills Related to Complications of Diabetes

- Each bill will be assessed based on its merit, relevance to diabetes, impact, and Association policy.

#### Reducing Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Consumption

- In accordance with criteria as set out in the Association Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Task Force report:
  - Support state and local initiatives to tax sugar-sweetened beverages.
  - Support exclusion of sugar-sweetened beverages from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.