



February 2, 2015

Representative Dan Hawkins
Chairman Health & Human Services Committee
Kansas House of Representatives
Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Chairman Hawkins,

We write today to let you know of our support as an organization for House Bill Number 2032. As you are aware this bill directs certain State departments and agencies, to develop a report on diabetes and to issue the report to the House of Representatives.

Diabetes is a serious disease and affects over 29 million people and their families nationwide. . Kansas's share of this is over 300,000 people with diabetes and 726,000 at risk for the disease. The cost of this disease is a huge \$245 Billion dollars to our economy Left unchecked Diabetes has the potential to bankrupt our health care system especially in the area of Medicaid.

This report is a start at addressing this terrible disease. It will enable these departments of KS government to develop a strategic plan to address the pandemic of diabetes.

We urge you to pass this bill and begin the fight to solve the problems faced by the economic cost and the quality of life of people in KS with diabetes and the state agencies affected by this disease.

The National Volunteer Diabetes Leadership Council is a non-profit patient advocacy organization. Its membership consists of past lay volunteer leadership and officers of national volunteer health organizations such as the American Diabetes Association. We seek to improve the burden of diabetes on all people with diabetes and their families through encouraging public policy and improved outcomes around diabetes.

Our membership has decades of experience in fighting diabetes and continue to work each day to solve the many problems faced by people with diabetes and their families.

We stand ready to offer testimony additional public comment or information to help in this very important and critical effort. Please feel free to contact us if we can offer any additional information.

Larry Ellingson,
Vice President, NDVLC
Chair of the Board 2004-2005
American Diabetes Association

Stewart Perry
Treasurer, NDVLC
Chair of the Board 2008
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Larry Smith
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