

**House Bill 2032
Proponent Testimony**

Steve Hayes
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American Diabetes Association
House Health and Human Services Committee, Tuesday, February 3, 1:30 pm, room 546-S

Good morning Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee:

My name is Steve Hayes, and I am the Chair of the American Diabetes Association Community Leadership Board in Wichita. I am here today to convey the Association's support for HB 2032 which calls for an assessment of the incidence of diabetes in Kansas as well as a plan to combat the disease and its complications.

The American Diabetes Association is the leading voluntary health association for all people with diabetes. The Association's mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

The Association supports House Bill 2032 because it will result in the development of a diabetes action plan through the efforts of the Secretary of Health and Environment. The plan first would provide an assessment of the benefits of existing program and activities aimed at controlling diabetes. It also requires a plan for battling diabetes with a range of action items to be considered by the legislature. And finally it asks for a budget blueprint, identifying the resources that would be necessary to implement each of these actionable items. This plan would be provided to the legislature in January of 2016, providing you with a foundation as to what the state is currently doing to address diabetes, and how those efforts could be expanded.

So why is this diabetes action plan necessary?

Everyday more and more people are diagnosed with diabetes. In 2010, there were 25.8 million Americans with diabetes, about 8.3% of the population¹. Just two years later, the numbers have increased to 29.1 million Americans with diabetes, representing about 9.3% of the population².

We know that the Department of Health and Environment has taken steps to reduce the incidence of diabetes in Kansas; however, according to the Center for Disease Control data from 2012, about 9% of adults in Kansas have diabetes³. And this figure doesn't include the much larger population of people with prediabetes. Prediabetes is characterized by elevated blood glucose levels that do not yet qualify as diabetes, but those with prediabetes are at heightened risk for developing diabetes.

Diabetes is sometimes compared to an iceberg, with the portion above the water representing people with diabetes, and the much larger portion below the waterline representing people with prediabetes. This diabetes iceberg is big, and requires us to ensure proper care for those who already have diabetes, and to do what we can to prevent others, those below the waterline, from developing it.

The diabetes action plan is also necessary because this disease is dangerous and deadly, far from harmless. In fact, diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States.⁴ It is also costly, according to the 2012 American Diabetes Association cost study, diabetes costs Kansas about \$1.98 billion.⁵

Diabetes requires a prominent self-management role by the patient in order to ensure good health outcomes, but lacking proper management it can lead to devastating complications, such as heart

¹ http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pubs/pdf/ndfs_2011.pdf

² <http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pubs/statsreport14/national-diabetes-report-web.pdf>

³ <http://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/diabetes/DiabetesAtlas.html>

⁴ <http://www.diabetes.org/diabetes-basics/statistics/>

⁵ <http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/early/2013/03/05/dc12-2625.full.pdf+html>

attack, stroke, blindness, kidney damage, and lower limb amputations. These complications result in tremendous burdens both for the people with diabetes as well as their loved ones, while also creating tremendous costs within the health system due to unnecessary ER visits, hospital admissions, and health services needed to address complications. These complications can also have an enormous effect on lost workforce productivity.

Similar legislation has been enacted in at least twelve other states – none of which, to our knowledge, have had a fiscal note.

To sum it up, a diabetes action plan is necessary, because in too many ways diabetes is winning. And when diabetes is winning, the people of Kansas are losing.

On behalf of the American Diabetes Association, I urge your support for House Bill 2032 so that an assessment of the scope of the diabetes epidemic in Kansas can be performed as well as the creation of a comprehensive action plan detailing how Kansas can help to reduce the incidence and impact of diabetes in the state. The resulting plan will provide you as policy makers with a clearer picture of what the state is doing and what the potential next steps might be so that Kansas can be at the forefront of our country's work to stop diabetes.

Thank you very much for your kind attention this morning and for your support of House Bill 2032.