



**HB 388
Proponent Testimony**

Gary Dougherty
Director, State Government Affairs
American Diabetes Association
House Finance Committee
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Co-Chairs Oelslager and Callender and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Gary Dougherty and I am the Director of State Government Affairs for the American Diabetes Association (ADA).

Diabetes is an epidemic in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 34 million Americans have diabetes and face its devastating consequences - and what's true nationwide is also true in Ohio. Approximately 11.1% of the state's adult population have diagnosed diabetes and more than 33% have prediabetes.

People with diabetes have medical expenses approximately 2.3 times higher than those who do not have diabetes and that's what makes surprise billing even more risky for this population.

As you know, surprise billing results when an insured person is unknowingly treated by an out-of-network provider and is then billed the difference between what the provider charged and what the insurer paid. Surprise bills can be significantly higher than the consumer's standard in-network cost sharing and can lead to significant financial hardship for consumers already struggling with a serious chronic condition like diabetes.

Among the American Diabetes Association's legislative priorities is to ensure all people with and at risk for diabetes have access to adequate and affordable health care. The ADA has continually supported legislation that reduces the potential guessing and medical debt for our patient population, especially for those with comorbidities.

Therefore, on behalf of the more than 4.3 million Ohioans living with or at risk for diabetes, the American Diabetes Association supports HB 388 and urges your favorable consideration as this legislation will protect patients from potentially unknown and costly medical debt.

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