



**House Bill 379
Proponent Testimony**

Gary Dougherty
Director, State Government Affairs
American Diabetes Association
House Health Committee
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Chairman Lipps and Members of the House Health Committee:

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

On behalf of the nearly 4.3 million Ohioans with or at risk for diabetes, I share with you ADA's support for HB 379 that seeks to designate April 26 as Diabetic Ketoacidosis Day in Ohio.

Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) is a serious condition that can lead to diabetic coma or even death.

When a person's cells don't get the glucose they need for energy, their body begins to burn fat for energy, which produces ketones. Ketones are chemicals that the body creates when it breaks down fat to use for energy. The body does this when it doesn't have enough insulin to use glucose, the body's normal source of energy. When ketones build up in the blood, they make it more acidic. They are a warning sign that your diabetes is out of control or that you are getting sick.

When ketone levels get too high, a person can develop DKA. Treatment for DKA usually takes place in the hospital. But DKA can be prevented by learning the warning signs and checking your urine and blood regularly.

Designating April 26 as Diabetic Ketoacidosis Day will help to raise awareness of the warning signs of DKA and encourage those who recognize the symptoms in themselves or others to contact their health care provider immediately.

I encourage your support for the passage of HB 379.

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