



Connected **for Life**

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 7
Proponent Testimony**

Gary Dougherty
Director, State Government Affairs
American Diabetes Association
Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
February 5, 2020

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Committee:

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

SCR 7 seeks to increase awareness of diabetes among Asian Americans by recommending the Ohio Department of Health to actively encourage health providers to participate in the "Screen at 23" campaign, a diabetes detection standard as recommended by the American Diabetes Association (ADA), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians (NCAPIP).

Research on Asian Americans support type 2 diabetes screening at a body mass index (BMI) of 23 compared to the standard screening threshold of a BMI of 25. It is projected that screening Asian American patients for type 2 diabetes at a BMI of 23 would detect more than 4,000 new cases of diabetes in Ohio and several thousand more cases of prediabetes.

Making the diagnosis earlier is critical for early treatment, preventing prediabetes from progressing to a full diabetes diagnosis, reducing associated damaging and sometimes fatal conditions, and lowering the cost of care and undue burden diabetes places on those affected as well as their families.

Beyond the statistics affiliated with diabetes, there are real lives at stake for whom early detection and prevention of diabetes is key to positive health outcomes and minimizing healthcare costs.

More than 100,000 Asian American Ohioans are expected to have diabetes or prediabetes by 2025. By addressing these risk factors appropriately and as recommended for the Asian American population, we would be taking great strides towards achieving our goal to address this health disparity.

Thank you very much for your attention this afternoon and I will try to answer any questions you might have.

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