



**House Bill 388
Proponent Testimony**

Gary Dougherty
Director, State Government Affairs
American Diabetes Association®
Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee
December 1, 2020

Chairman Hackett and Members of the Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee:

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

I regret that I am unable to join you today; however, on behalf of the nearly 4.3 million Ohioans with or at risk for diabetes, I want to take a few brief moments to share the support of the ADA for House Bill 338.

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 legislative priorities of the American Diabetes Association® 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.

Gary Dougherty
Director, State Government Affairs
1-800-676-4065 Ext. 4832
gdougherty@diabetes.org

1-800-DIABETES (342-2383)

diabetes.org
@AmDiabetesAssn



Connected **for Life**

Thank you very much for your attention. If you have any questions, please direct them to me at gdougherty@diabetes.org and I will do my best to answer them for you.

Gary Dougherty
Director, State Government Affairs
1-800-676-4065 Ext. 4832
gdougherty@diabetes.org

1-800-DIABETES (342-2383)

diabetes.org
@AmDiabetesAssn