



**Senate Bill 305
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 Senate Bill 305.

Access to affordable, adequate health coverage is critically important for the diabetes community in Ohio. The need is intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ADA, the nation's leading voluntary health organization fighting to bend the curve on the diabetes epidemic and help people living with diabetes thrive, recognizes the importance of telehealth as patients seek to access health care while keeping safe and limiting their exposure and the exposure of others.

Telehealth also provides an additional method of receiving care for patients who have time and transportation barriers and for those living in rural areas.

SB 305 requires that, during a state of emergency declared by the Governor or the U.S. President, a health plan issuer must cover health services as telemedicine services, to be reimbursed at the same rate as in-person services. The bill also seeks to expand the number of providers required to receive reimbursement for telemedicine services. As such, SB 305 will serve to enhance the telehealth experience in Ohio for those with diabetes.

On behalf of your constituents who are living with or at risk for diabetes and in order to keep our communities healthy, I urge you to support SB 305 so we can expand the options for Ohioans to seek care virtually during declared states of emergency.

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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.

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