



**House Bill 212
Proponent Testimony**

Gary Dougherty
Director, State Government Affairs
American Diabetes Association®
House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee
May 27, 2021

Chair Manchester and Members of the House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee:

My name is Gary Dougherty and I am the Director of State Government Affairs for the American Diabetes Association® (ADA), the nation's leading voluntary health organization fighting to bend the curve on the diabetes epidemic.

I regret that I am unable to join you today; however, on behalf of the more than 4.3 million Ohioans with or at risk for diabetes, I want to share with you the support of the ADA for House Bill 212.

Diabetes is a serious and expensive disease. In fact, people with diabetes have medical expenses 2.3 times higher than those without diabetes. These expenses can be devastating to a family caring for a child who relies on costly insulin and diabetes equipment and supplies to live.

Although state and federal law allows young adults to remain on their parents' health insurance plan until age 26, coverage through CMH ends at age 21. HB 212 proposes to expand CMH eligibility for those currently participating in the program through age 26. Such a change will help to ease the financial burden these young adults experience as they transition into college and/or their chosen career field.

ADA research shows that one in four insulin users already ration their insulin, primarily due to the cost. By doing so, they risk serious medical complications that often lead to expensive hospital visits and ongoing medical costs.

As a payor of last resort, the CMH program can help to fill the financial gap experienced by many families of children and young adults with diabetes and serve as a critical safety net.

To ensure continued CMH coverage through age 26, the American Diabetes Association® supports House Bill 212 and urges your support as well.

Thank you. 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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