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**Senate Health Committee**  
**Senate Bill 42 — Sponsor Testimony**  
**Wednesday February 10, 2021**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 42.

This bill will help raise awareness to the Diabetes epidemic in Ohio by creating an *Ohio Diabetes Awareness-Heart Connection week* during the second week of November.

Here in the buckeye state, 1 in 9 adults live with diabetes, representing nearly one million Ohioans. According to CDC estimates, Ohioans will spend nearly \$16 billion annually on diabetes costs.

It is important to recognize the strong connection between diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Of note, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death and major cause of disability for people living with type 2 diabetes. Furthermore, those with type 2 diabetes are twice as likely to die of heart disease. It is because of this connection that the American Heart Association and American Diabetes Association recently launched a campaign known as “Know Diabetes by Heart.”

Last year, the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Commission on Minority Health and Ohio Department of Administrative Services jointly issued the 2018 Ohio Diabetes Action Plan that was required by HB 216 from the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. This action plan ultimately issued several recommendations including the creation of a diabetes awareness week. I believe that by raising awareness to diabetes and related conditions like cardiovascular disease that we are showing our commitment to follow up on the Ohio Diabetes Action Plan and creating a healthier Ohio.

Thank you once again, Chairman Huffman and the members of the committee, for the opportunity to present this issue to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.