



**House Bill 633
Proponent Testimony**

Gary Dougherty
Director, State Government Affairs
American Diabetes Association®
House Public Health Policy Committee
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Chairman Mathews and Members of the House Public Health Policy 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. Founded in 1940, the ADA is comprised of people with diabetes, healthcare professionals, research scientists, and other concerned individuals. The ADA's mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

I regret that I am unable to join you today; however, I want to thank Representatives Miller and Hall for introducing House Bill 633 to require the Ohio Department of Health to create and post on its website informational materials regarding type 1 diabetes for parents, guardians, and caregivers of elementary school students in public and private schools as well as in community schools and STEM schools.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease. Testing, coupled with education about diabetes symptoms and close follow-up, has been shown to enable earlier diagnosis and to prevent potentially deadly complications like diabetic ketoacidosis.

HB 633 will provide caregivers with valuable information that describes type 1 diabetes, including warning signs and risk factors, and that will also encourage them to seek medical attention should they observe any symptoms of the disease in the student. Screening for type 1 diabetes is also to be included in the information available to a student's caregiver.

The information required by HB 633 could lead to early diagnosis of type 1 diabetes and result in expedited access to a treatment plan, developed with the student's diabetes care team, to include insulin, physical activity, and an eating plan to reach health goals.

On behalf of all students who may receive an early diagnosis of type 1 diabetes as a result of HB 633, the American Diabetes Association urges your support for this legislation as another tool to help young Ohioans become more aware of the disease and live a long and healthy 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.