



diabetes partnership  
OF CLEVELAND

Formerly the Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland

Ohio Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
Written Proponent Testimony  
Senate Bill 287 (Hite)  
May 4, 2016

Chairwoman Jones and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

On behalf of the Diabetes Partnership of Cleveland, we ask you to support Senate Bill 287 (Hite), which will require state agencies to assess the incidence of diabetes in Ohio, to establish plans to reduce that incidence and to submit recommendations on diabetes prevention, treatment and management.

The Diabetes Partnership of Cleveland is a local and independent non-profit organization serving individuals affected by diabetes. Our mission is to reduce the number of people with pre-diabetes, diabetes, and diabetes complications through prevention services and to support those impacted to better manage and control their health. The Diabetes Partnership offers self-management education classes, medical nutrition therapy, an emergency insulin program and a nationally recognized camp for children with diabetes, just to name a few.

According to 2013 data from the Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System as reported by the Department of Health, it was estimated that 10.4 percent or 921,012 of Ohio adults had been diagnosed with diabetes. In addition, it was estimated that another 7.2% (378,153) of Ohio adults had been diagnosed with pre-diabetes, increasing their risk of progressing to Type 2 diabetes later in life. Alarming, the number of Ohioans affected by diabetes has only grown since that time. Recent information provided by the American Diabetes Association shows approximately 1.3 million Ohioans with diabetes and another 3 million people with pre-diabetes. At current rates of growth, it has been projected nationally that 1 in 3 individuals will develop type 2 diabetes by 2050. These statistics are staggering and we need to do all we can now to bring the incidence of diabetes down in Ohio.

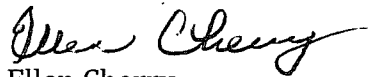
Senate Bill 287 will require the Office of Health Transformation to coordinate with the Departments of Health, Medicaid, Administrative Services and the Commission on Minority Health to assess the incidence of diabetes in Ohio and to establish goals to reduce that incidence. The Departments will also recommend legislative policies and specific action steps to reduce the prevalence of diabetes in Ohio.

Sixteen other states have already passed similar legislation to tackle this problem. As Ohio is eighth in the nation in the number of people diagnosed with diabetes, it is imperative for Ohio to follow suit and pass this important bill.

The Diabetes Partnership stands ready to assist agencies and the General Assembly in addressing the incidence of diabetes in Ohio. With billions of dollars being spent each year to treat diabetes in direct medical expenses and billions more being spent on indirect costs from lost productivity, we cannot wait any longer to prioritize this issue. We urge your support of this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen Cherry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ellen Cherry  
Diabetes Partnership of Cleveland