



**Senate Bill 229
Proponent Testimony**

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American Diabetes Association
Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
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Chairman Burke and Members of the Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee.

My name is Gary Dougherty and I am the Director of State Government Affairs for the American Diabetes Association.

I regret that I am unable to join you this afternoon; 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 American Diabetes Association for Senate Bill 229.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death and a major cause of heart attacks, strokes, and disability for people living with type 2 diabetes, yet a recent Harris Poll revealed that only half of people age 45 and older with type 2 diabetes recognize their risk or have discussed their risk for heart attacks or strokes with their health care providers.

This is one of the reasons why the American Diabetes Association has joined with the American Heart Association and other industry leaders to launch Know Diabetes by Heart™, an effort to reduce cardiovascular deaths, heart attacks, and strokes in people living with type 2 diabetes.

The Know Diabetes by Heart™ initiative seeks to comprehensively combat the national public health impact of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease by focusing on positively empowering people living with type 2 diabetes to better manage their risk for heart disease such as, heart attacks, strokes and heart failure, and supporting health care providers in educating and treating their patients living with type 2 diabetes to reduce their cardiovascular risk.

By designating the second week of November as Ohio Diabetes Awareness – Heart Connection Week, we can continue to raise awareness of the risk of heart disease for those living with type 2 diabetes.

Thank you very much for your consideration and I urge your support for SB 229.

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