



**House Bill 418
Proponent Testimony**

Gary Dougherty
Director, State Government Affairs
American Diabetes Association®
House Health Committee
November 10, 2020

Chairman Lipps and Members of the House Health 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 more than 4.3 million Ohioans with or at risk for diabetes, I wanted to emphasize that the American Diabetes Association® (ADA) strives to protect patients from mid-year changes in their health care coverage. House Bill 418 provides these necessary protections.

The ADA is firm in its belief that restrictive changes should not be made to formularies after a plan year has begun. A patient makes a decision regarding their health insurance coverage based upon the formulary and the plan's policies in effect at the time of enrollment for the coming plan year. It is rare that the patient is able to switch health plans in the middle of the year; therefore, the insurer should not be permitted to make changes that adversely affect an insured's coverage without, at least, providing exemptions and an opportunity to appeal a negative decision. Such changes can disrupt the continuity of care, result in unexpected and significant expenses for the patient, and may jeopardize their health.

The ADA advocates for many public policies designed to support patient-centered care, and HB 418 will help achieve that goal. Specifically, we support policies prohibiting health plans from making changes to formularies during the plan year. To protect patients from mid-year formulary changes, the American Diabetes Association supports House Bill 418 and urges your support as well.

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.

Gary Dougherty
Director, State Government Affairs
1-800-676-4065 Ext. 4832
gdougherty@diabetes.org

1-800-DIABETES (342-2383)

diabetes.org
@AmDiabetesAssn