



Connected **for Life**

April 7, 2022

Chair Liebling and Committee Members,

On behalf of the American Diabetes Association® (ADA) I would like to thank you for House File 4706 and the critical investments and policy changes it makes to improve access to care. I would like to highlight a few pieces of legislation that will have a positive impact for the 386,480 people in Minnesota diagnosed with diabetes.¹

- Inclusion of House File 2056 to cap copayments for prescription medicine needed to manage diabetes, equipment, and supplies.
- Legislation to move Minnesota closer to implementing a public option and offering a more affordable health insurance choice on the state marketplace.
- Including Representative Reyer's legislation, House File 4063, to assist people with navigating the healthcare system through a screening process and referring them to options for financial assistance.
- Legislation to reduce the churn of individuals on Medicaid by making children under the age of 21 continuously eligible for 12 months.
- Inclusion of legislation to address non-medical switching and to ensure individuals can remain on their prescribed medication through the end of a contract year.

Diabetes and prediabetes are a serious chronic disease that affects 133.3 million Americans.² It is critical that individuals with the disease have access to high quality and affordable healthcare but unfortunately so many people continue to face high costs for the medications and supplies that they need. Health care costs for Americans with diabetes are 2.5 times higher than for those without diabetes.³ Thank you for this important legislation. If you have any questions, please direct them to me at ckemp@diabetes.org.

Thank you,

Carissa Kemp
Director of State Government Affairs

¹ ADA State Fact Sheet, https://diabetes.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/ADV_2022_State_Fact_sheets_all_rev_MN-4-4-22.pdf

² CDC, *National Diabetes Statistics Report*, <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics-report/index.html>

³ Stark Casagrande, Sara and Cowie, Catherine, *Health Insurance Coverage Among People With and Without Diabetes in the U.S. Adult Population*, ADA Standards of Care <https://diabetesjournals.org/care/article/35/11/2243/30910/Health-Insurance-Coverage-Among-People-With-and>

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