Advocacy in Action



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **Diabetes Advocates make a difference:** Whether we are engaging in federal or state legislation or addressing a legal advocacy challenge, the voices and stories of Diabetes Advocates are always critical to helping the American Diabetes Association® (ADA) change policy to find a cure and to help those living with the disease.
- **In 2024, the ADA was the driving force behind many new laws that help people with diabetes:** This year, the ADA is continuing to lead on policy issues of importance including ensuring medications and diabetes technology are affordable and that people don't have to jump through extra hoops to get them; protecting federal funding for diabetes research and prevention programs and ensuring state and federal programs are able to provide health care and nutritious food to hard working Americans in times of need. But, to accomplish these things, we need your help.
- **Get involved and take action:** There are several other ways to get involved in diabetes advocacy, including joining our Regional Advocacy Councils or legal advocacy networks, sharing your story, responding to action alerts, and engaging with the ADA on social media.

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF ADVOCACY OFFICER

During my tenure at the ADA, I have been continually inspired by the commitment and passion of our Diabetes Advocates. Thank you for the generosity with which you share your stories with the ADA and policy makers. Your advocacy is invaluable to the ADA's ability to achieve our policy goals together and advance our mutual mission to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by

cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

Over the past several years, ADA advocacy has led to major improvements in access to care, and diabetes technology, and improving insulin affordability—but we have so much more work to do. Thank you for joining us. Together, we fight!



Lisa Murdock
Chief Advocacy Officer
American Diabetes Association

2024 WINS

In 2024, the ADA was instrumental in improving access to treatments and diabetes technology and affordability in state and federal health care programs. Together we achieved monthly patient cost-sharing limits on insulin in 26 states and the District of Columbia and we increased the number of states who provide coverage for continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) in state Medicaid programs. We also championed federal policies to protect health care coverage for those with diabetes and maintained critical federal investment in diabetes research and prevention programs to continue to fight for a cure.



The ADA organized three congressional advocacy events: Call to Congress, Fall Fly-In, and Congress@Home.





The ADA hosted three national policy forums on primary care, obesity, and diabetes technology.



The ADA developed obesity-focused coalitions in states and roundtables on amputation prevention strategies.

FEDERAL UPDATES

Call to Congress 2025 Recap

In March, Diabetes Advocates from across the country met with members of Congress and their staff to seek support for the ADA's legislative priorities, including funding for diabetes research and prevention programs, ensuring access to health care and insulin affordability, and nutrition assistance programs. Continuing this momentum and advocacy is critical. You can join us by using the ADA's at-home advocacy guide to spread awareness and support these important funding and policy initiatives for the diabetes community.

Administrative News

The Trump Administration is moving quickly to establish cabinet members and define policy priorities. Among the actions we are watching are:

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced that it is limiting funding for indirect costs for research grants, which could negatively impact research for a cure and treatments benefiting those living with diabetes. The ADA has issued statements on these cuts and is working with members of Congress to resolve concerns.
- The administration halted funding for the Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study (DPPOS). The ADA expressed concerns about the cancellation of the decades-long research study. We issued a statement and are working with members of Congress to resolve this issue.
- The administration eliminated approximately 50% of the staff at the U.S. Department of Education and signed an executive order announcing the intention to eliminate the department. The ADA expressed concern for these actions, noting the downstream impacts on the legal rights of children and students living with diabetes.
- The ADA is monitoring initiatives around federal spending cuts, including those to safety programs that provide health care and nutritious food to hard working American families.

Congress Extends Federal Funding

The 119th Congress is underway, organizing and introducing legislation as well as working through the federal government funding process known as appropriations, for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 that begins October 1, 2025. On March 14, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) that extends federal funding for diabetes research and prevention programs to September 30, 2025. This action was critical, and without it, funding for these programs would have stopped. Our collective advocacy since the beginning of the year and particularly at Call to Congress was important to securing continued funding.

The ADA Submits Comments on the Federal Dietary Guidelines

In February, the ADA submitted comments in response to the Scientific Report that is used to inform and update the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Updated every five years, the guidelines provide a baseline for dietary standards of healthy adults. The ADA called for attention to the importance of understanding the dietary needs of people with diabetes, prediabetes, overweight, and obesity, noting the important role nutrition management has on these and other chronic conditions.

Further, our comments call attention to promoting consumer awareness of sugar, caloric, and carbohydrate intake from beverages or plant-based proteins and offered the ADA as a resource as the dietary guidelines are revised.







STATE UPDATES

State Legislative Sessions Underway

With legislative sessions underway across the nation, the ADA state team is hard at work supporting legislation to improve access to diabetes medications and technology, obesity treatments that will help to prevent type 2 diabetes, tools to lower amputation risk, as well as many other issues to ensure people with diabetes have access to the care they need.

Some key state policy movements to highlight:

Massachusetts institutes an insulin copay cap: Stephen Habbe, the ADA's vice president, state government affairs & advocacy, and Tim Garvin, the ADA's National Advocacy Committee member, join Massachusetts Governor Maura Healy during her signing of legislation addressing prescription drug affordability, including an ADA-supported

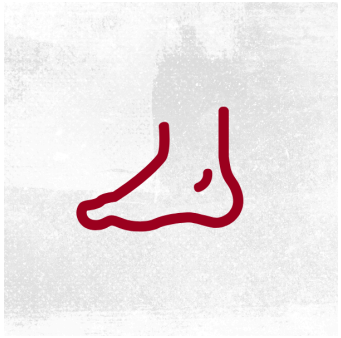
patient cost-sharing limit of $25 on insulin in state-regulated health plans.



The ADA hosts advocacy day in Maryland in support of covering obesity treatments: Monica Billger, the ADA's director, state government affairs, joins diabetes educators, senators, and delegates at the Maryland State House to discuss the importance of comprehensive obesity coverage.



The New Mexico legislature passed legislation expanding coverage and treatment options for diabetes-related foot ulcers: The bill is now on the governor's desk awaiting her signature.



The North Dakota legislature passes insulin patient cost-sharing limit bill: Thank you to all our ND advocates who contacted their state

legislators and Governor Armstrong requesting support for this lifesaving legislation (HB 1114). Your voice made a difference! Once enacted, cost sharing for insulin on state-regulated plans will be $25.



LEGAL ADVOCACY

Safe at School Updates

The ADA's Safe at School® campaign is committed to ensuring students with diabetes are safe, treated fairly, and have full access to all school-sponsored activities such as field trips and after-school clubs. Below are some recent updates, but you can explore more helpful resources on the Safe at School page.

- Diabetes Care in the School Setting: A Statement of the American Diabetes Association**:** Our recently published statement on diabetes care in schools outlines best practices, legal protections, and the important role of school staff in supporting students with diabetes.
- Updated model 504 Plan**:** A critical tool that ensures students with diabetes receive the accommodations they need, protects students, and helps schools provide appropriate care.
- Cell phone restrictions at school**:** More states and school districts are implementing policies that restrict cell phone access during the school day. Students may carry our Electronic Devices for Diabetes Management Wallet Card, a quick reference guide outlining their right to use smart devices for diabetes management at school.

Cases of Note

The ADA's Legal Advocacy team is monitoring Texas v. Becerra, which

is pending in district court. This case was brought by a number of states challenging several provisions of the Health and Human Services 504 rule that came out last summer. The complaint also challenged the constitutionality of Section 504 as a whole, which is integral to protecting students with diabetes in schools and other places that receive federal funding. The case is pending and the parties are sending a status report to the judge once a month.

ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT



Meet Angela and Luke

What does being a Diabetes Advocate mean?
Being a Diabetes Advocate means bringing awareness to other people about the signs and symptoms [of diabetes] so that people may be diagnosed earlier. It also means advocating for insulin to be available and affordable to all people who are diabetic and are dependent on insulin to survive. And lastly, it means being inspired by others' stories, being kind but firm in the message we share with lawmakers and others, optimistic about the future, and of course, hopeful for a cure.

Do you have any advice for other advocates on how to get involved?
Our advice for other advocates on how to get involved would be to be patient, listen, gather information, be informed, and then be persistent and positive. We need each other, we need to have a united front, we need to make sure that others hear our very personal stories so that when they make their decisions on diabetes-related laws and policies, they think of our daily struggles, our realities, and they aim to make our lives better because they feel are invested in us and are a part of our story.

Why do you fight?

Why do you fight?

I fight because my son, Luke, was diagnosed [with diabetes] at age 12 and his life is very difficult because of his diagnosis. Every decision we make, diabetes needs to be a part of. I fight because I want no children to suffer like Luke did when he was undiagnosed. I simply didn't know the symptoms of diabetes onset and my goal is to bring awareness to the signs and symptoms and make sure people are educated and aware. I also fight because I know there will be a cure one day and I know that part of the journey to finding a cure is to fight for research funding, to share our personal story so people in power know the importance of funding diabetes research. One day, my son will be insulin free and I take ownership in being a part of that dream becoming a reality and will fight and advocate any possible way that I can.

Want to be featured in a future issue of **Advocacy in Action**? Fill out our form.

GET INVOLVED AND TAKE ACTION

Active Action Alerts: Make Your Voice Heard

The ADA's Engagement Platform makes it easy to use your voice to help support the diabetes community on the issues that matter most. Take action on one of our live alerts now!

Regional Advocacy Councils (RACs)

RACs support the ADA's advocacy goals in a number of ways, including acting on alerts advocating for better access to care and treatment, sharing their personal stories, participating in meetings with legislators, raising awareness about diabetes issues in their community, recruiting new advocates, and more. To join, please complete our sign-up form.

Legal Advocacy Attorney and Health Care Professional Networks

The ADA's Legal Advocacy team is seeking attorneys and health care professionals to help end discrimination against people with diabetes. Help us educate others about this disease by negotiating appropriate diabetes care and accommodations, litigating to protect the rights of people with diabetes, and legislating to ensure people with diabetes are

protected from discrimination. For questions or to join, please visit our Know Your Rights webpage.

Share Your Story

The ADA believes in the power of your voice. Diabetes Advocate stories help the ADA share real lived experiences and the human impact of policy decisions on those affected by diabetes to lawmakers. By sharing your story, you can help change the lives of the millions of people in the U.S. living with diabetes. Share your story today!

Diabetes and Obesity State Fact Sheets Available

The ADA published state-specific fact sheets to help your legislators understand the prevalence and impact of diabetes and obesity in their state. Consider using them in your advocacy discussions or to learn more about the state of diabetes.

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