

December 6, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for the PREVENT DIABETES Act

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

We write to you today to express support for passage of the PREVENT Diabetes Act, as amended within the Energy and Commerce reported H.R. 7623, the Telehealth Modernization Act, (original bill S. 4094, the PREVENT DIABETES Act (Scott, R-SC and Warner, D-VA)), before the conclusion of the 118th Congress.

The PREVENT DIABETES Act, as amended by Energy and Commerce, would improve access to the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP) by removing the lifetime limit on participation, ensuring seniors can participate in the program more than once, and by expanding access to all CDC-recognized delivery modalities including virtual diabetes prevention platforms in the program for five years.

Almost 1 in 3 adults aged 65 and older have diabetes. According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), medical care for seniors with diabetes and its complications cost the U.S. \$205 billion in 2022, most of it paid by Medicare. According to the CDC, some 98 million Americans have prediabetes, including 27.2 million who are aged 65 and older. Without a significant course correction, those numbers will only grow.

In 2017, Medicare began covering access to the CDC's National Diabetes Prevention Program through the MDPP. The program's objective is to reduce the incidence of type 2 diabetes by providing beneficiaries with prediabetes access to an intensive program that includes long-term dietary changes, physical activity, and other behavioral changes to reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes. These interventions—based on a curriculum developed and approved by CDC and, importantly, furnished by organizations evaluated by CDC—were proven to work during rigorous model testing through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI).

The lack of alignment with the CDC Diabetes Prevention Recognition Program (DPRP) requirements, including MDPP's restrictions with respect to eligible suppliers and limiting the benefit to in-person programs prevents Medicare beneficiaries from taking advantage of the same virtual DPPs that have greatly expanded access to DPP services outside of Medicare.

The PREVENT DIABETES Act would expand access to life-changing preventative services by allowing *all* CDC Fully Recognized organizations and modalities of delivery—including organizations already recognized by CDC to furnish DPP services virtually—to participate in the program through 2030, while keeping important oversight, accountability, and program integrity protections in place. The bill also removes the lifetime limit on participation, ensuring that seniors aren't penalized if they must pause participation due to a life event, such as caring for a loved one.

The PREVENT DIABETES Act will help prevent diabetes before it occurs and thereby minimize its terrible impact on the lives of our nation's seniors and the resulting skyrocketing healthcare costs borne both by seniors and federal health programs. We lend our support to that effort and urge you to pass the PREVENT DIABETES Act before the conclusion of the 118th Congress.

Thank you for your leadership.

Respectfully,

ATA Action
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Telemedicine Association
Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists
Diabetes Leadership Council
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition
Endocrine Society
Global Liver Institute
Health Innovation Alliance
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Council on Aging
National Kidney Foundation
Noom, Inc.
Omada Health, Inc.
Teladoc Health
WeightWatchers
YMCA of the USA