

On behalf of the 313,630 Coloradans with diabetes, [1] the American Diabetes Association (ADA) is pleased to provide comments on the selection of a benchmark plan for Colorado's essential health benefits (EHB).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that as many as 1 in 3 Americans will have diabetes by 2050, and nearly one in two racial/ethnic minority children born in 2000 will develop diabetes in their lifetime, if current trends continue. The total cost of diabetes for people in Colorado in 2006 was estimated to be about \$2.5 billion, which includes medical costs and lost productivity. [2]

Given the extraordinary burden of diabetes and prediabetes, it is of the utmost importance that Colorado's benchmark EHB plan provides adequate and affordable coverage for people with, and at risk for, diabetes. The EHB plan must provide coverage in required categories ensuring the availability of effective treatments and therapies to successfully prevent and/or manage the disease and its complications. This should include diabetes self-management education and diabetes prevention programs. Furthermore, the Association believes the benchmark EHB plan must maintain existing state mandates for diabetes coverage.

ADA understands many factors must be balanced in selecting a benchmark EHB plan and appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments. Please feel free to contact me at 916-541-7198 or via email at lmurdock@diabetes.org if I may be of further assistance or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Murdock State Government Affairs Director American Diabetes Association

[1] Colorado Diabetes Prevention and Control Program Available online at: http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/pp/Farmtoschool/diabetes/index.html.

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American Diabetes Association. Diabetes Cost Calculator: Estimated Prevalence and Cost of Diabetes in Colorado. Available online at: http://www.diabetesarchive.net/advocacy-and-legalresources/cost-of-diabetes-results.jsp?state=Colorado&district=0&DistName=Colorado+%28Entire+State%29

² American Diabetes Association. Diabetes Cost Calculator: Estimated Prevalence and Cost of Diabetes in Colorado. Available online at: http://www.diabetesarchive.net/advocacy-and-legalresources/cost-of-diabetes-results.jsp?state=Colorado&district=0&DistName=Colorado+%28Entire+State%29