

The Diabetes Message for Kentucky Legislators 2010

1. Thank you for all that you have done over the last several years to address the problem of diabetes in Kentucky

(See the back of this page for previous legislative actions addressing diabetes)

2. Diabetes is:

- **COMMON:** 9.9% (324,000) of Kentucky adults have diagnosed diabetes and those who are undiagnosed may take the total number of people with diabetes up to 405,000. Also, 8% (235,000) of adults report having a diagnosis of pre-diabetes. Hundreds of thousands of additional Kentuckians are at risk due to obesity, physical inactivity, high blood pressure or high cholesterol.
- **SERIOUS:** Diabetes is the 6th leading cause of death in KY and often leads to heart attack, stroke, lower extremity amputations, kidney failure and blindness.
- **COSTLY:** Diabetes may cost as much as \$3 billion per year in Kentucky.
- **CONTROLLABLE:** Much can be done to prevent diabetes in Kentucky and to reduce the sickness and death caused by the disease.

(See the *2010 Kentucky Diabetes Fact Sheet* for more details)

3. Please continue to support efforts to stem the tide of diabetes in Kentucky by:

- Preserving the funding appropriated in the past for diabetes prevention and control and the Diabetes Research Board.
- Passing House Bill 52 to improve the physical activity of our children in schools.
- Passing House Bill 246 and Senate Bill 86 to improve the nutritional information available to Kentuckians eating at chain restaurants.
- Taking action to insure the care and safety of children with diabetes in schools.
- Protecting those advancements you, our legislature, have made in the past to fight diabetes. (See the back of this page)

THANK YOU TO OUR LEGISLATORS

Legislative accomplishments related to diabetes from the last several years:

- Requiring state regulated insurance plans to cover diabetes self management education and diabetes care supplies.
- Adding diabetes to the Kentucky Death Certificate.
- Improving school nutrition in lunch programs and vending machines.
- Helping ensure the medical safety of children with diabetes in KY by permitting non-medical volunteer school personnel to be trained in Glucagon administration.
- Increasing state funding of the KY Diabetes Prevention and Control Program.
- Providing funding for the Diabetes Centers of Excellence.
- Establishing and funding the Kentucky Diabetes Research Board.