



Dear State Legislator:

According to the American Diabetes Association, an estimated 23.6 million adults and children in the U.S. have diabetes. Of these, 5.7 million cases have gone undiagnosed. These statistics raise the question of what state legislators can do to educate their constituents on how to recognize the symptoms of diabetes and, once diagnosed, how to manage and prevent complications caused by diabetes.

This summer, Women In Government featured a diabetes segment at each of our regional conferences. At our 11th Annual Eastern/10th Annual Southern Regional Conference, "The Obesity Epidemic – Policies for Prevention," addressed concerns over obesity leading to chronic diseases, such as diabetes. At our 16th Annual Midwestern Regional Conference, "Barriers to Access for Care in Minorities for Diabetes Diagnosis, Treatment and Management," addressed the prevalence of diabetes in minority and low-income populations and finally, at our 12th Annual Western Regional Conference, "Diabetes: Prevention and Treatment," addressed promoting walkable communities as a way to reduce the prevalence of diabetes in the U.S.

State legislators can play a vital role in supporting healthcare initiatives that require insurers to cover testing supplies; yearly eye, foot, and dental exams; visits to dietitians; and regular A1C testing (a blood test that measures blood sugar control over a three-month period). In addition, state legislators can educate providers about treatment standards tailored to individual patients.

Our Diabetes Legislative Toolkit includes: fact sheets, frequently asked questions, sample legislation, and other resources that will assist you in your efforts to educate your constituents on diabetes management and prevention and help improve quality of life for patients with diabetes.

This Toolkit is located on the Women In Government website at www.womeningovernment.org. If you have any questions regarding the Toolkit, please contact Heather Boyd, Policy Associate, at hboyd@womeningovernment.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Brooks Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mary Brooks Beatty
President