

Preventing Diabetes in Medicare Act (H.R. 1686): Talking Points

The Preventing Diabetes in Medicare Act (H.R. 1686) has been introduced in the House by Congresswoman Dianna DeGette (Colo.) and Congressman Ed Whitfield (Ky.), co-chairs of the Diabetes Caucus.

Burden of Diabetes in the United States

- Today, 29.1 million people have diabetes, while 86 million are estimated to have prediabetes. Seven out of 10 individuals eligible for Medicare are affected by diabetes or prediabetes.
- Total cost of diabetes to the U.S. health care system in 2012 was estimated to be \$322 billion. One out of every four federal health care dollars is spent treating people with diabetes.

Role of Medical Nutrition Therapy in Preventing Diabetes

- Individualized Medical nutrition therapy (MNT) for people with prediabetes provided by a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN) is an effective, evidence-based practice that can result in weight loss and improved blood glucose, which are key outcomes for diabetes prevention programs.

Support the Preventing Diabetes in Medicare Act (H.R. 1686)

- House: Co-sponsor H.R. 1686, which expands Medicare coverage of MNT to people with prediabetes (currently only covered for those with diabetes and renal disease).
- Senate: Support/introduce the Preventing Diabetes in Medicare Act to provide evidence-based, cost-effective services to people with prediabetes.

Share Your Story! Invite member of Congress to visit your program to see the importance of providing Medicare coverage for medical nutrition therapy for people with prediabetes.