

September 14, 2011

The Honorable Joe Pitts
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Pallone:

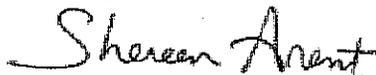
On behalf of the nearly 26 million Americans with diabetes and the 79 million with prediabetes, the American Diabetes Association (Association) is writing to express our opposition to the discussion draft under consideration by the House Energy and Commerce Committee which prevents enforcement of the grandfathered plan regulation required under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Under the ACA, a grandfathered health plan is defined as an existing group health plan or health insurance coverage from the individual health insurance market in which a person was enrolled on the date of enactment. The grandfathering of existing health insurance plans under the ACA provides stability and flexibility to individuals, families and businesses and protects their ability to keep their current health insurance plan. As a result, grandfathered health plans are exempt from the vast majority of the new insurance reforms. However, several important provisions in the ACA do apply to grandfathered plans and these protections are critically important for people with diabetes. It is also essential to maintain the grandfathered health plan regulation so plans are not free to make major changes or cuts to their existing coverage.

Repeal of the grandfathered plan regulation would be extremely harmful to people with diabetes and those at high-risk of developing diabetes because health plans would not have to comply with provisions in the ACA that prohibit pre-existing condition exclusions, prohibition of lifetime and annual limits, extension of dependent coverage for children up to age 26, and restrictions on out-of-pocket maximums. These protections are critical to consumers with and at risk for diabetes and will help improve the coverage for enrollees as well as make private coverage more accessible and affordable. Diabetes has become America's most pressing epidemic and if current trends continue the number of Americans with diabetes will double by 2050. But this tragedy doesn't have to happen and appropriate implementation of the Affordable Care Act will result in improved benefits at an affordable cost for all Americans with or at risk for diabetes.

The Association encourages you to support implementation of the grandfathered health plan regulation which includes valuable protections for people with diabetes. Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact Tekisha Dwan Everette, Managing Director, Federal Government Affairs at teverette@diabetes.org.

Sincerely,



Shereen Arent
Executive Vice President
Government Affairs and Advocacy

National Office

1701 North Beauregard Street
Alexandria, VA 22311
Tel: 703-549-1500 • Fax: 703-549-1715

Diabetes Information

Call 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383)
Online: www.diabetes.org
The Association gratefully accepts gifts through your will.

The Mission of the American

Diabetes Association is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.