

January 27, 2022

Dear Senator:

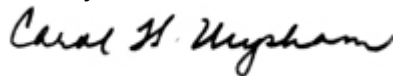
On behalf of the Endocrine Society, I want to make you aware the National Clinical Care Commission (NCCC) has released its report to Congress entitled [Leveraging Federal Programs to Prevent and Control Diabetes and its Complications](#), which contains recommendations for improving federal diabetes prevention and treatment programs.

Diabetes is a major health problem in our country affecting Americans in every state and congressional district. The prevalence of diabetes continues to increase across the country. The latest (2022) [estimates](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are that more than 130 million adults are living with diabetes or prediabetes. Roughly one 1 out of every 10 Americans has diabetes while 1 out of every 3 adults has prediabetes. This has resulted in overwhelming increased costs for our healthcare system. Medical costs for people with diabetes are more than twice as high as for people without diabetes. The total cost of diabetes and prediabetes is estimated to be \$327 billion in the United States.

The NCCC report includes detailed recommendations to address the ongoing diabetes epidemic. We want to call your attention to some of the recommendations that are particularly timely as Congress continues to consider ways to lower the cost of prescription medications, appropriations for FY 2022, and changes in healthcare resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The report recommends ways to improve access to affordable insulin including allowing the government to negotiate lower drug prices and limiting cost-sharing to a co-pay of no more than \$35 a month. The report also recommends investing more funding into diabetes research and prevention programs including the Special Diabetes Program, the Diabetes Prevention Program at the CDC, and research funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Finally, the report includes recommendations to improve virtual care modalities including removing geographic and ongoing site restrictions and maintain coverage of audio-only visits which are currently allowed under the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The Society supports all of these recommendations.

The Endocrine Society is the world's oldest and largest organization of scientists devoted to hormone research and physicians who care for people with hormone-related conditions. One of the Society's most important policy goals is to improve the lives of people with diabetes. We would be happy to talk with you about these recommendations and their alignment with our policy priorities. If you have any questions or require additional information about diabetes, please contact Rob Goldsmith, Director of Advocacy and Policy, at rgoldsmith@endocrine.org.

Sincerely,



Carol H. Wysham, MD
President
Endocrine Society