

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

Problem-Increasing diabetes rates in Medicare population.

1. Today, 29.1 million people have diabetes, while 86 million are estimated to have prediabetes. Three out of four individuals eligible for Medicare are affected by diabetes or prediabetes.
2. Total cost of prediabetes and diabetes to the U.S. health care system in 2012 was estimated to be \$322 billion. One out of every three federal health care dollars is spent treating people with diabetes.
3. Medicare covers screening for type 2 diabetes, and covers medical nutrition therapy for patients with diagnosed diabetes, but not for prediabetes.
4. In 2014, there were 46.2 million adults aged 65 and older in the United States; by 2060, this number will double to 98 million, putting a greater burden on Medicare.

Solution- the Preventing Diabetes in Medicare Act (H.R. 1686/S.____)

This bill is a clinically and cost effective solution to prevent diabetes in the Medicare population.

5. Clinically effective:
 - a. Allows Medicare coverage of medical nutrition therapy for patients with prediabetes, or with risk factors for diabetes.
 - b. Medical nutrition therapy, provided by registered dietitian nutritionists, is an evidence-based intervention that prevents or delays the progression from prediabetes to diabetes.
6. Cost effective:
 - a. Medical nutrition therapy used as a lifestyle intervention for individuals with prediabetes is cost-effective for Medicare.

Personal story: _____

The Ask: Please co-sponsor the Preventing Diabetes in Medicare Act (H.R. 1686/S.____), and encourage committee chairman to move the bill to the floor for a vote.

Invite Member of Congress to visit your (clinic, hospital, practice) to see an RDN in action.

Thank you for your time!