



## **Diabetes Patient Protection HB1261**

**Sponsors: Representative Robert Cortes**

**Co-Sponsors: Representative Maitland**

**AADE Position: SUPPORT**

House Bill 1261, also written as HB1261, will allow diabetes educators who meet provisions of this legislation to be licensed in Florida and become Licensed Diabetes Educators.

HB1261 will protect individuals with diabetes and permit healthcare professionals such as nurses, dietitians, nutritionists, pharmacists, physicians, exercise physiologists, podiatrists, and others who provide people with diabetes the skills they need to self-manage their disease and delay or avoid costly complications to become Licensed Diabetes Educators.

Under the provisions of this bill:

1. Those who already hold an active Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) credential or a Board Certified-Advanced Diabetes Management (BC-ADM) credential will be considered Licensed Diabetes Educators once they apply for licensure.
2. Those who do not hold a CDE or BC-ADM credential currently and who want to call themselves a Licensed Diabetes Educator will need to have a professional health-care background, pass the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators exam, and have a minimum number of 250 hours of experience with diabetes education.

Diabetes is one of the most prevalent and destructive diseases in Florida. As of 2013, over 1.7 million individuals (or approximately 9% of the total population) in Florida have diabetes.

According to the actuarial firm Milliman & Associates, state medical costs in Florida of diabetes in 2012 was \$18.9 billion.

In addition, Medicaid medical cost of diabetes in Florida (adults only in 2011) was \$2.1 billion.

Milliman & Associates also states that patients with diabetes incur total annual costs 450% greater than patients without diabetes.

The licensing of diabetes educators in Florida is essential for a number of reasons:

- Currently, any person can claim that they are providing diabetes education, even if they do not have adequate training or specialized knowledge to ensure that quality care is being given to the person with diabetes.
- Licensure will optimize patient care professionalizing diabetes education by creating minimum standards for licensed diabetes educators, ensuring that those who train individuals on how to self-manage their diabetes have the core competencies to do so.

- Under this bill, those health professionals who want to call themselves a Licensed Diabetes Educator will need to have a professional health-care background, pass an exam, and have a minimum number of hours of experience with diabetes.
  - Licensure will lead to better health outcomes and will save our state's health care system money. This is because Diabetes Self-Management Training (DSMT) has a proven track record of lowering glycemic levels and reducing health-care costs.
  - The bill will also create a legal scope of practice for Licensed Diabetes Educators. Other healthcare professions have licensure or registration requirements and a professional scope of practice that give them a legal standing for recognition by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Licensure also creates the legal definition that is needed to successfully advocate for increased reimbursement of and provider status for diabetes educators.
- 
- For more information about this legislation, please contact AADE members Joyce Parrillo at [joyceparrillo@yahoo.com](mailto:joyceparrillo@yahoo.com) or Bridget Jennings at [bridgetandcompany@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetandcompany@gmail.com) .