



*American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists*

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Dramatic Increases in Diabetes Incidence, Costly Care  
and Redundant Spending:  
*Leading Medical Association Responds to “Unmanageable” Situation,  
Pushes Congress to Pass Improved Diabetes Care Legislation***

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – March 3, 2015 –An estimated 29.1 million Americans (almost 10 percent of the total population) have diabetes, another 86 million citizens aged 20 or older suffer from prediabetes, and spending on diagnosed diabetes has increased 41 percent over five years, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Further, diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, new cases of blindness among adults and non-traumatic lower-limb amputations in the U.S. and is a gateway to multiple chronic diseases and conditions that are diabetes complications, including heart disease, high blood pressure and stroke.

Citing these alarming statistics, the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE), the world’s largest organization of clinical endocrinologists (specialists in the treatment of diabetes), is leading the charge of more than 40 national organizations representing physicians, allied health professionals, patients, communities and the medical industry in support of legislation that will improve care for those with diabetes, prediabetes and associated illnesses.

The National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act ([H.R. 1192/S. 586](#)) calls for the creation of a commission of the country’s foremost diabetes experts – endocrinologists and related clinical care specialists, patient advocates and federal agency representatives – to identify duplication and critical gaps in federal diabetes initiatives and make recommendations to improve the implementation and coordination of diabetes care. The legislation is co- sponsored in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Pete Olson (R-22-TX) and Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-2-IA) and in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH).

“Diabetes and its devastating complications are exacting a terrible physical and financial toll on our country’s population, and it has become an unmanageable situation,” said [Dr. Mack Harrell](#), president of AACE. “While well-intentioned, many of the nation’s healthcare regulatory activities on this front are inconsistent, ineffective or overlapping, so it’s incumbent upon on Congress to take action immediately to pass this legislation that calls for better leveraging our government’s investments to reverse this dire situation and improve clinical care.”

The National Clinical Care Commission Act has been also endorsed by the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American College of Cardiology, the American Medical Association and The Endocrine Society, not to mention many patient advocacy groups including the American Diabetes Association (ADA), the Diabetes Hands Foundation, the diatribe Foundation, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and the YMCA of the USA.

A delegation of AACE leaders will be making visits to Congress members this week to advocate for the National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act and other high-priority legislative initiatives.

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**EDITORS' NOTE:**

Members of an AACE delegation will be in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday March 4 and Thursday March 5 to meet with congressional staff regarding the National Clinical Care Commission Act. Key members will be available for interviews either by phone or desk side after the visits. To schedule an interview, please contact Assistant Director, Public and Media Relations, Mary Green at [mgreen@aace.com](mailto:mgreen@aace.com) or by phone at 407-506-2960.

**About the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE)**

*The American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) represents more than 6,500 endocrinologists in the United States and abroad. AACE is the largest association of clinical endocrinologists in the world. The majority of AACE members is certified in Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism and concentrates on the treatment of patients with endocrine and metabolic disorders including diabetes, thyroid disorders, osteoporosis, growth hormone deficiency, cholesterol disorders, hypertension and obesity. Visit our site at [www.aace.com](http://www.aace.com).*