



February 10, 2025

Chairman Rudy and Members of the House Human Services Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 1451.

The ADA's mission is "to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes." We lead the fight against the deadly consequences of diabetes and advocate for those affected by diabetes.

Obesity continues to be a significant public health epidemic in North Dakota. In North Dakota, 35.6 % of the adult population, have obesity.¹ The North Dakota adult obesity rate is projected to increase to 53.9% by 2030.² Obesity is the leading risk factor for type 2 diabetes and is linked to up to 53 percent of new cases of type 2 diabetes each year.³ There are 200 medical conditions linked to obesity which include heart disease, high blood pressure, and multiple types of cancer.⁴

In addition to the major public health outcomes, obesity leads to significant health care costs. For people with obesity, per-patient-per-year health care expenditures are estimated to be \$4,958 greater than for those without obesity.⁵

The American Diabetes Association's (ADA's) *Standards of Care in Diabetes* recognizes obesity as a chronic disease, resulting from a mixture of genetic, environmental, and behavioral factors.

We support comprehensive coverage for obesity treatment. This includes access to person centered interventions, including intensive behavioral and lifestyle treatment, obesity medications, and surgery.

Recent studies have shown that these treatments can lead to improved health.

In November of 2023, a study released in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showed that Semaglutide can reduce by 20% heart disease risk factors such as cardiovascular deaths, strokes, and heart attacks in people with obesity.⁶

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony. We respectfully ask the committee to support HB 1451.

If you have any questions, please contact me at mprokop@diabetes.org.

Sincerely,
Matt Prokop
Director, State Government Affairs

1 <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data-and-statistics/adult-obesity-prevalence-maps.html>

2 <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1909301>

3 <https://diabetes.org/advocacy/obesity>

4 <https://www.ama-assn.org/topics/obesity>

5 <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/adult-obesity-facts/index.html>

6 Lincoff, A.M.et al. (2023). Semaglutide and cardiovascular outcomes in obesity without diabetes. New England Journal of Medicine, 389(24), 2221-2232. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/10.1056/NEJMoa2307563>