



January 8, 2025

Dear Chairman Ruby and Committee Members,

On behalf of the American Diabetes Association (ADA), we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 1069. The ADA's mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

HB 1069 would rescind the requirement that North Dakota prepare a biennial, multi-agency report on the status of diabetes in North Dakota, and on our state agency efforts and plans to address the prevention and management of diabetes. ADA opposes this legislation given the continuing impact and burden that diabetes and its complications have on North Dakota's residents, and the need for continued engagement in the face of these burdens.

Diabetes continues to be a critical health issue in North Dakota. Approximately 57,300 adults in North Dakota have been diagnosed with diabetes. ⁽¹⁾ Every year, an estimated 3,500 adults in North Dakota are diagnosed with diabetes. ⁽¹⁾ Significant medical expenses and costs due to diabetes also exist in the state. Total direct medical expenses for diagnosed diabetes in North Dakota was \$471 million and the total cost of diabetes was \$661 million (inclusive of indirect costs encompassing lost productivity at work). ⁽¹⁾

Having a North Dakota specific report is beneficial in developing evidenced-based strategies around short and long-term goals in diabetes prevention and management from state organizations and partners. We applaud the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, and the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (NDPERS) for identifying community-based strategies in their 2024 report around reducing incidence rates for North Dakotans over 65 or those identifying as American Indian/Alaska Native. Data shows that these demographic groups experience higher rates of diabetes. ^(2, 3)

The American Diabetes Association appreciates the work put in by these agencies in developing diabetes plans, goals, and information that can benefit our collective work to reduce diabetes rates and improve health outcomes in North Dakota. We respectfully ask the committee to oppose passage of HB 1069 in order to support continued dialogue and engagement to advance diabetes prevention and management.

Sincerely,

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⁽¹⁾ https://diabetes.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/adv_2024_state_fact_north_dakota.pdf

⁽²⁾ <https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/diabetes/diabetesatlas-surveillance.html#>

⁽³⁾ https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/Diabetes/Diabetes_AmIndian_C/ND