

DIABETES PATIENT ADVOCACY COALITION



March 13, 2026

Maryland Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for HB 1565 *Public Health - Obesity Management and Treatment Programs (Healthy Maryland for Every Body)*

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Maryland Health Committee,

On behalf of the Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition (DPAC), I write to express our strong support for HB 1565.

DPAC is an alliance of people with diabetes, caregivers, patient advocates, health professionals, and others working together to support public policy initiatives to improve the lives of Americans living with and at risk for diabetes and its complications. As an organization run by and for people with diabetes, DPAC seeks to ensure quality of and access to care, medications and devices that our community depends on everyday.

The diabetes community cares deeply about maintaining and expanding coverage of AOMs, because access to effective obesity therapies is crucial to effectively prevent and manage diabetes. The use of weight loss drugs reduced the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes by 94% in obese or overweight adults with pre-diabetes compared to a placebo, according to initial results from a long-term study.¹ The American Diabetes Association in their standards of care, cite extensive evidence that obesity management can delay the progression from prediabetes to Type 2 diabetes and is highly beneficial in treating Type 2 diabetes, and greater weight loss substantially reduces A1C and fasting glucose and may promote sustained diabetes remission.²

¹ Jastreboff, A. M., Aronne, L. J., Ahmad, N. N., Wharton, S., Connery, L., Alves, B., Kiyosue, A., Zhang, S., Liu, B., Bunck, M. C., Stefanski, A., & SURMOUNT-1 Investigators. (2022). Tirzepatide Once Weekly for the Treatment of Obesity. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 387(3), 205–216. <https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa2206038>

² American Diabetes Association. (2025). 8. Obesity and Weight Management for the Prevention and Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes: Standards of Care in Diabetes—2025. *Diabetes Care*, 48(Supplement_1), S167–S179. <https://doi.org/10.2337/dc25-S008>

Providing coverage of obesity management medications for state employees would prevent over 200 obesity comorbidities that are not only expensive to the state but also detrimental to the health, productivity, and quality of life of Maryland state employees.

We look forward to continued collaboration with state leaders, providers, and patient advocates to ensure that individuals living with or at risk for obesity and diabetes receive the tools and care they need to live healthier lives.

We respectfully ask for a favorable report on HB 1565.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Huntley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

George Huntley
Chief Executive Officer
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition