

September 8, 2016

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Energy & Commerce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Pitts
Chairman
Health Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pete Olson
U.S House of Representatives
2133 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gene Green
Ranking Member
Health Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dave Loebsack
U.S. House of Representatives
1527 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Upton, Pallone, Pitts, Green, Olson and Loebsack:

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics commends you for holding a hearing on September 8, 2016, regarding H.R. 1192, "The National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act." Representing more than 100,000 registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs), nutrition and dietetic technicians, registered (NDTRs) and advanced-degree nutritionists, the Academy is the largest association of food and nutrition professionals in the United States. Academy members play an important role in the prevention and treatment of diabetes and we support this important legislation. We urge passage by the Energy and Commerce Committee as soon as possible to facilitate expedited approval by the House and subsequent approval by the Senate this year.

The Academy is hopeful the Committee's action will allow for enactment of H.R. 1192 this year and help the nation pivot from continuing the status quo to instead undertaking more proactive and innovative approaches to metabolic, autoimmune and insulin resistant diseases, which include the escalating diabetes epidemic and the chronic disease complications of diabetes. The total cost of diabetes to the United States has increased nearly 50 percent in five years, totally \$322 billion annually. This cost includes not only diabetes care, but also the myriad of complications that occur with diabetes. Furthermore, there are 29.1 million people in the U.S. with diabetes and 86 million with prediabetes. As the Medicare population continues to grow at a rapid pace, it is critical that Congress act now to ensure our health care dollars are invested in the best treatment and prevention options for people with prediabetes and diabetes.

As you know, H.R. 1192 creates a commission that includes leaders of the federal government, as well as private sector health care professionals, including registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) who provide care for patients with prediabetes and diabetes. The commission would review the myriad of ways the government currently spends money on activities related to the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes and other metabolic, autoimmune and insulin resistant diseases and make recommendations on how these funds could be utilized more effectively.

Through innovation, collaboration and application of advances in care called for in this important legislation, H.R. 1192 provides the opportunity to address the enormous economic and human toll caused by diabetes and complications of the disease.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics thanks you and the Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee for taking action to advance H.R. 1192 and we again offer the Academy's support for this critical legislation. We look forward to working with you to secure its passage by the House of Representatives and the Senate this year.

Sincerely,

Lucille Beseler, MS, RDN, LDN, CDE, FAND
President 2016-2017
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics