



April 15, 2025

Re: ADA Opposition to Senate Bill 134 - Waiver for Work Requirements

Dear Member of the House Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs:

I am writing on behalf of the American Diabetes Association to express our opposition to **Senate Bill 134, An Act Relative to Work Requirements under the State Medicaid Program.**

More than 8% of adults in New Hampshire have diagnosed diabetes. Access to affordable, adequate health coverage is critically important for all people with, and at risk for, diabetes. Adults with diabetes are disproportionately covered by Medicaid. For low-income individuals, access to Medicaid coverage is essential to managing their health.

The ADA is deeply concerned by this proposal to revoke certain Medicaid beneficiaries' enrollment if they do not meet or substantiate proposed work or community engagement standards. This type of coverage limit is in direct conflict with the Medicaid program's objective to offer health coverage to those without access to care. Most people with Medicaid who can work, do so. Instead, instituting such requirements would lead to higher uninsured rates and higher emergency room visits by uninsured Americans who would have been eligible for Medicaid coverage. This proposal also increases the administrative burden for the state and its Medicaid managed care plans.

Diabetes is a complex, chronic illness that requires continuous medical care and people with diabetes cannot afford a sudden gap in health insurance coverage. The true cost of diabetes can be measured in negative health outcomes. Diabetes is a leading cause of cardiovascular disease, adult blindness, non-traumatic lower-limb amputations, and kidney failure. Providing health care coverage for low-income residents with diabetes and prediabetes *before* they develop disabling and costly complications not only helps those individuals maintain their health and productivity, but is also cost-effective for the state in the long-run.

Thank you for considering the American Diabetes Association's opposition to Senate Bill 134.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Habbe".

Stephen Habbe
Vice President, State Government Affairs
shabbe@diabetes.org