

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 197 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY WASHINGTON, TIGUE, SAINATO, CALTAGIRONE, BELARDI,
BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, BISHOP, BLACKWELL, CREIGHTON, CURRY,
DALEY, DENLINGER, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HARHAI, JAMES,
KIRKLAND, LEDERER, MYERS, PALLONE, PISTELLA, READSHAW,
ROBERTS, THOMAS, WANSACZ, YOUNGBLOOD AND RAMALEY,
MARCH 29, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
MARCH 29, 2005

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging states to support diabetic insurance coverage.

2 WHEREAS, Diabetes is a disease that affects the body's
3 ability to produce or respond to insulin and is the sixth-
4 leading cause of death and fifth-leading cause of death by
5 disease in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, Diabetes is a disease with serious complications,
7 including blindness, kidney disease, amputations, heart attack
8 and stroke, and has no cure; and

9 WHEREAS, Approximately 2.3 million or 10.8% of all African
10 Americans have diabetes, and one-third of them do not know it;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, African Americans are 1.7 times more likely to have
13 diabetes than non-Hispanic whites and 25% of African Americans
14 between the ages of 65 and 74 have diabetes; and

15 WHEREAS, One in four African-American women over 55 years of

1 age has diabetes, and African Americans are twice as likely to
2 suffer from diabetes-related blindness; and

3 WHEREAS, Diabetes is the most frequent cause of nontraumatic
4 lower limb amputations, and among people with diabetes, African
5 Americans are 1.5 to 2.5 times more likely to suffer from lower
6 limb amputations; and

7 WHEREAS, Ten to twenty-one percent of all people with
8 diabetes develop kidney disease and African Americans with
9 diabetes are 2.6 to 5.6 times more likely to suffer from kidney
10 disease (end-stage renal disease) each year; and

11 WHEREAS, Ninety to ninety-five percent of African Americans
12 with diabetes have type 2, which is preventable, and two main
13 risk factors increase the chance of developing type 2: genetic
14 components and lifestyle, including obesity. Type 2 diabetes
15 could greatly be lowered within the African-American community
16 through proper diet and exercise. Education on healthy eating is
17 crucial to fighting the current twin epidemics of diabetes and
18 obesity within the African-American community; and

19 WHEREAS, The Diabetes Control and Complications Trial, a
20 multi-million dollar clinical research effort funded by the
21 National Institutes of Health, proved beyond a shadow of a doubt
22 that keeping blood sugar in the normal range helps to prevent
23 the complications of diabetes; and

24 WHEREAS, Diabetes is a significantly self-managed disease
25 requiring constant attention on the part of the patient and
26 access to the tools needed to manage the disease; and

27 WHEREAS, Appropriate insurance coverage of the necessary
28 diabetes supplies, equipment and education is the only way to
29 ensure that people with diabetes have access to the tools they
30 need to prevent the deadly and costly complications of diabetes;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Forty-three states, including the Commonwealth of
3 Pennsylvania, have already enacted state laws mandating state-
4 regulated insurance plans to cover the medically necessary
5 supplies, equipment and education needed to self-manage
6 diabetes; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
8 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania support efforts in the remaining
9 states to require that insurance providers cover the necessary
10 supplies, equipment and education needed to appropriately self-
11 manage diabetes; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives oppose efforts to
13 roll back, weaken or eliminate existing provisions that require
14 insurance providers to cover the necessary supplies, equipment
15 and education needed to appropriately self-manage this deadly,
16 serious and costly disease.