

FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Legislation: HB 967 and SB 1578

Status: Introduced and referred to the House Health Quality Subcommittee.

Hearing/Vote: None scheduled

Points of Contact:

House Sponsor

Representative Rene Plasencia - rene.plasencia@myfloridahouse.gov

Phone: (850) 717-5049

Legislative Aide: Nitin Aggarwal – Nitin.Aggarwal@myFloridaHouse.gov

Senate Sponsor

Senator Audrey Gibson - gibson.audrey@flsenate.gov

Phone: (850) 487-5006

Legislative Aides:

Farisha Hamid - hamid.farisha@flsenate.gov

Teresa Williams-Elam - williams-elam.teresa@flsenate.gov

Chair of the House Health Quality Subcommittee

Representative Cary Pigman, cary.pigman@myfloridahouse.gov

Legislative Aide: Bryan Mielke, bryan.mielke@myfloridahouse.gov

Analysis

Florida and the American Association of Diabetes Educators is once again attempting to restrict who can provide diabetes self management training. Specifically, the legislation states that the “The Legislature finds that the provision of diabetes self-management training by unregistered and incompetent practitioners presents a danger to the public health and safety.” To remedy this, only those that pay for and take a costly certification program, given by a single organization, will be duly “competent” to provide such training. This is nothing more than the AADE’s attempt to line their pockets, and it could set a bad precedent for providing diabetes education and information in the future. Last year this legislation was soundly defeated as many in the healthcare community, such as doctors and nurses, adamantly opposed it. However this new

version exempts almost all other licensed health care professionals, and would not necessarily limit holistic nutrition practitioners, but we should remain vigilant.

Recommendations

Politely oppose this legislation. Contact your State Representative and Senator and urge them to vote no to restrict and place further costly, unnecessary, and unfair burdens on diabetes care. Diabetes is a serious issue for all Floridians, and no one group should have control over who can provide training for that care, particularly when they seek to do so only for monetary gain.

SAMPLE LETTER TO SEND TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVE(S)

March 27, 2017

Dear _____:

As your constituent, I am writing to ask that you **oppose** HB 967 and SB 1578. This legislation would require a license for those who wish to provide diabetes self-management training, but really it's an attempt by a private organization to enrich themselves through government regulation.

While the bill only requires those who wish to hold themselves out as a "diabetes educator" to become licensed, this is quite broad, and could set a dangerous precedent for anyone who educates and provides information on diabetes prevention and care. What's more it would encourage other organizations seeking to sell a credential to ask government regulators to force people to pay.

The gist of this legislation is that government regulation would be used to enrich a private association, because those who wish to be licensed under the law, would be required to pay a private organization. However it will do nothing to improve the health and safety of Floridians.

Diabetes care is not one-size-fits-all, and help can come from a myriad of providers. From weight loss specialists and nutritional therapists, to medical doctors, holistic nutritionists, and wellness coaches. It should not be a revenue generating tool for a private association, nor should we encourage greater control over who patients and clients seek out for their healthcare.

Don't limit choice in Florida by over-regulating the licensing of specific diseases. Do we really need another license for healthcare providers? I say we don't. I urge you to vote against!

Thank you very much,

Sincerely,

(Your signature here)