



March 30, 2026

Senate Committee on Finance

Re: Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Hearing

Dear esteemed Chair DiPalma and honorable members of the committee,

On behalf of the Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition (DPAC), I write to request that the Committee protect coverage of anti-obesity medications (AOMs) in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. 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 for our community.

The diabetes community cares deeply about maintaining and expanding coverage of AOMs, because access to effective obesity therapies is crucial to effectively prevent 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.² Coverage of these drugs can treat obesity and prevent over 200 comorbidities that are not only expensive to the state but detrimental to the health, productivity, and quality of life of Rhode Island residents.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or if we may be a resource in further policy discussions related to AOMs and diabetes.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin M. Callahan".

Erin M. Callahan

ecallahan@diabetespac.org

Chief Operating Officer

Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition

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>