



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

We are people with diabetes, parents of children with diabetes, allies and tireless volunteers dedicated to improving the lives of all people impacted by diabetes. The Diabetes Leadership Council unites former leaders of national diabetes organizations, dedicated to securing effective, affordable health care and a discrimination-free environment for every person with diabetes.



Letter from our Chair:

In 2025, leadership was not optional. It was essential. The policy environment surrounding diabetes and obesity care shifted rapidly, with real consequences for access, affordability, and innovation. In this moment, the Diabetes Leadership Council stepped forward with clarity, credibility, and conviction.

Throughout the year, DLC served as a steady, expert voice in conversations that demanded more than sound bites or short-term solutions. From proposed Medicaid cuts to disruptions in federally funded research, our board, members, and partners worked to ensure that policymakers understood both the human and systemic implications of their decisions. We showed up with data, lived experience, and a commitment to long-term outcomes.

What distinguishes DLC is not only what we advocate for, but how we do it. Our strength lies in collaboration—bringing together former leaders of national diabetes organizations, clinicians, researchers, and policy experts to advance solutions grounded in evidence and practicality. In 2025, that approach allowed us to engage federal agencies, members of Congress, governors and state legislators, employers, and other stakeholders with confidence and impact.

The challenges facing the diabetes community remain urgent. Access to care is under pressure; research progress cannot be taken for granted, and stigma continues to shape policy in harmful ways. Yet I remain optimistic. DLC has demonstrated that informed leadership can cut through complexity and elevate better decision-making, even in uncertain times.

I am deeply grateful to our board, our staff, our partners, and the broader diabetes advocacy community for their trust and collaboration. Together, we are reinforcing the foundation for policies that improve lives, not just today, but for years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Stewart Perry".

R. Stewart Perry
Board Chair

Congressional Engagement

In 2025, DLC prioritized rapid, high-impact policy engagement in response to emerging federal threats. When proposed Medicaid cuts raised alarms about coverage losses and uncompensated care, DLC issued public statements and directly contacted governors in 13 states, urging them to protect access for people with diabetes.

DLC also acted decisively to address disruptions to federally funded diabetes research. Letters to HHS and NIH leadership highlighted the risks posed by halted clinical trials and interrupted studies, emphasizing both patient safety and the long-term consequences for innovation and prevention.



In March and June 2025, DLC conducted more than **40 meetings** with Congressional offices, addressing issues including patient choice, PBM reform, obesity treatment coverage, funding for the Diabetes Prevention Program, and Section 504 protections.

These meetings emphasized practical policy solutions and reinforced DLC's role as a trusted resource for lawmakers navigating complex health policy decisions.

Employer Initiative

DLC's Employer Initiative remained a cornerstone of our work in 2025, educating employers and benefits professionals on plan design strategies that improve care while managing cost. The Initiative addressed critical issues affecting employer-sponsored health plans, including diabetes technology, access to obesity treatments such as GLP-1s, the impact of the 340B program, and the overall cost of diabetes and obesity to employers.

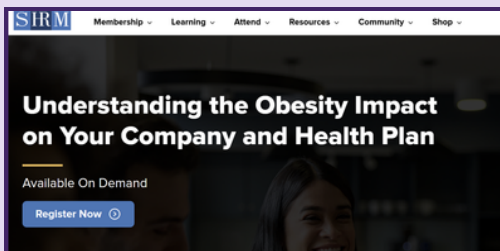
Employer Solutions Website



The DLC website was revamped to feature updated content on Obesity Management, PBM Strategies, and Fiduciary Responsibility.



Four webinars reached an audience of over 1,000 HR and benefits professionals.

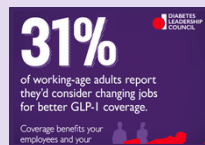


Article published May 2025



Authored by George Huntley

C-Suite Digital Campaign



Urged C-Suite executives to cover treatments for obesity for their employees, including obesity management medications.



Ads highlighted GLP-1 coverage as an important employee retention tool.

IFEBP HBCE conference presentation January 2025



Diabetes And Obesity Risk Management Strategies For Health Plans

MBGH conference presentation September 2025



Optimizing Diabetes Care: Tips For Managing Cost & Risk

State Legislator Education

The State Legislator Education program is designed to educate state policymakers about priority issues impacting the diabetes community. State legislators are reached by delivering educational content through channels such as the Council of State Governments, Women In Government, and the National Foundation for Women Legislators. Programming is delivered via live presentations at national and regional meetings.

In addition, DLC builds relationships with state lawmakers in-person at conferences to reinforce our messaging and to encourage them to consider sponsoring or supporting legislation that would help people with diabetes.



We delivered presentations to state legislators, elected officials and Medicaid directors. Highlights include:

“Prescription Affordability: State Strategies to Ensure Affordability for Patients”
at the Women In Government Leadership & Innovation Summit



“Diabetes Screening: The Cost of Not Knowing”
at the National Foundation for Women Legislators Healthcare Summit

“Keeping Care Within Reach: Policy Solutions to Protect Your Constituents with Diabetes”
at the National Foundation for Women Legislators Annual Conference



Patient Choice Roundtable Discussions
at the CSG Medicaid Leaders Development Policy Academy

At these events, we share policy resources, including:

- Getting Ahead of Type 1 website: www.gettingaheadoftype1.org
- DPAC Diabetes & Obesity State Legislator Handbook: www.diabetespac.org/handbook

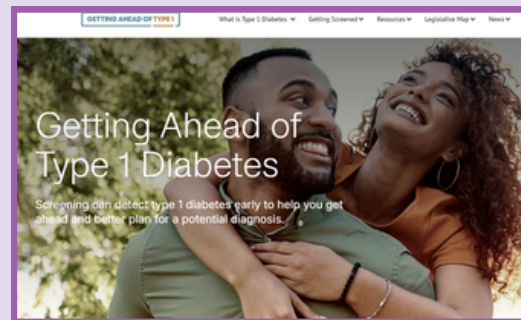
T1D Screening & Education

The Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) Screening Awareness Project is a signature effort of DLC aiming to educate the general public and families who have a biological relative with type 1 diabetes to talk with their family doctor about screening options for other family members.

DLC continued to lead national efforts to increase awareness of type 1 diabetes screening. Through consensus resolutions, roundtables, and the Getting Ahead of Type 1 initiative, DLC promoted early detection and informed family decision-making.

Early Detection Roundtable

DLC hosted a virtual roundtable, “Importance of Early T1D Detection: Advancing Implementation,” on February 27, 2025.



Orlando Task Force

DLC hosted a roundtable, “The Importance of Early T1D Detection: Increasing Screening & Practical Implementation,” on July 9 in Orlando. Public health leaders, clinicians, FQHC directors, policy advocates, and system administrators from the Tampa and Orlando areas attended this invitation-only, closed-door discussion and identified regional priorities to advance this paradigm shift in T1D detection and care.

Atlanta Task Force

In late September, DLC hosted a roundtable in Atlanta with local stakeholders, focused on the importance of T1D early detection. During this discussion, local health leaders, primary care providers, clinicians, diabetes community leaders, and policy advocates met to align on short-term goals and take ownership for specific actions and implementation.

Beta Cell Preservation Roundtable in Washington, DC

DLC convened over twenty experts for a messaging workshop in Washington D.C. to align on common messaging about the potential of beta cell preservation. Together, we developed foundational messaging frameworks to translate complex science into accessible, action-oriented communication.



Letter from our CEO:

2025 reinforced why the Diabetes Leadership Council exists. As policy debates intensified and long-standing assumptions about access, coverage, and research were challenged, the need for informed, consistent leadership became unmistakable. DLC's role this year was to translate complexity into clarity, and to ensure that decisions affecting millions of people with diabetes and obesity were grounded in evidence and reality.

Across federal and state arenas, DLC expanded its engagement. We responded swiftly to threats to Medicaid and NIH-funded research, engaged directly with federal agencies on obesity treatment coverage, and elevated concerns about supply chain and affordability risks tied to pharmaceutical tariffs. These were not abstract policy issues; they presented immediate barriers to patient health and system stability.

At the same time, DLC continued to strengthen its proactive work. Our fly-in brought board leadership directly to Congressional offices for substantive, solution-oriented conversations. We deepened employer engagement through education on benefit design, obesity management, and stigma reduction. And we advanced patient choice by advocating for expanded access to diabetes technologies and reduced administrative barriers.

What makes this work effective is the expertise behind it. DLC's members bring decades of experience in diabetes care, research, and policy. In 2025, that expertise was leveraged not just to react, but to lead, anticipating challenges, offering alternatives, and shaping conversations before decisions were finalized.

The road ahead will continue to require vigilance and partnership. But DLC enters the next year focused, prepared, and committed to ensuring that policy decisions reflect both evidence and humanity. I am grateful to our board, partners, and collaborators who make this work possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Huntley".

George Huntley
Chief Executive Officer

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