

**DIABETES  
PATIENT  
ADVOCACY  
COALITION**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2025**

Our mission is to ensure quality of and access to care, medications and devices for people living with diabetes; and to educate, inspire and empower patient advocates as well as lawmakers toward meaningful action on diabetes.



## *Letter from our Chair:*

In 2025, advocacy required precision, persistence, and resolve. The policy landscape surrounding diabetes care continued to shift quickly, often without sufficient consideration for the real-world consequences faced by patients. In this environment, the Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition remained focused on what matters most: protecting access, advancing practical policy solutions, and ensuring patient voices are present where decisions are made.

Throughout the year, DPAC engaged lawmakers on issues that directly affect people living with diabetes, including insulin affordability, access to technology, and the unintended consequences of poorly designed health policy. These were not abstract debates. They were decisions with immediate implications for health outcomes and financial stability for millions of individuals and families. DPAC met those challenges with disciplined advocacy and a clear sense of purpose.

DPAC's effectiveness comes from its ability to translate lived experience into actionable policy engagement. Our advocates showed up informed, prepared, and persistent, demonstrating that patient voices, when organized and supported, can influence outcomes even in complex and polarized policy environments. This impact is not always visible, but it is essential.

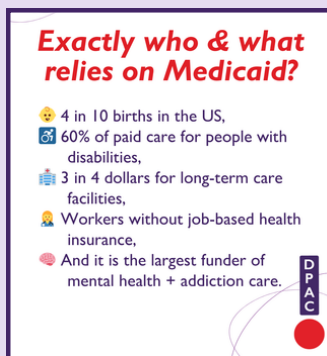
The work ahead remains demanding. Pressures on healthcare budgets, shifting political priorities, and continued misunderstanding of diabetes and its care all threaten progress. Advocacy cannot be episodic or reactive; it must be sustained, strategic, and grounded in evidence. DPAC is positioned to do exactly that.

I am grateful for the commitment of our advocates, the leadership of our staff, and the stewardship of my fellow board members. Their focus and determination ensure that DPAC continues to be a trusted and effective voice for people with diabetes. The stakes are high, and the work is far from finished—but DPAC is prepared to meet what comes next.

L. Hunter Limbaugh  
Board Chair

# Defending Access to Care: Federal Rapid-Response Campaigns

In response to proposed Medicaid cuts, DPAC launched a national petition urging Congress to reject legislation that would jeopardize coverage for millions. More than 1,300 advocates from 47 states signed on, while dozens of patient stories were collected and shared directly with lawmakers. This effort was amplified through a targeted social media campaign – including a content suite with over 20 infographics and a “Medicaid in Motion” advocate spotlight series – designed to educate advocates and destigmatize Medicaid coverage by centering lived experience.



**MEDICAID IN MOTION:**  
stories from the community.

**“In 2022, my health started worsening.**

I was in constant pain and could no longer attend to my daily functions. Standing hurt, lying down hurt, existing hurt. I was getting ready to start grad school while working part time, and both started to crumble due to my unknown health condition.

**Megan Gerst**

I moved to Maryland for school in June of 2023, and when I went to the marketplace to sign up for insurance I no longer had enough income to qualify for insurance other than Medicaid. Honestly, I had mixed feelings about this. **It was another reminder about how much my circumstances had shifted.**

**MEDICAID IN MOTION:**  
stories from the community.

**“I’m the face of Medicaid.**

Not the stereotype. Not the stigma. Just a kid from a single-parent home who needed help and got it.

Growing up with type 1 diabetes, Medicaid covered the countless hospital visits I had from diabetic ketoacidosis, a care fight to a children’s hospital, and even the three days I spent in a coma. Without that coverage, I don’t know how my family would have afforded to keep me alive.

**Randall Barker**

DPAC also took action to preserve critical diabetes research funding amid threats to the National Institutes of Health. DLC/DPAC submitted formal requests to HHS and NIH leadership seeking transparency regarding canceled clinical trials and interrupted funding—raising alarms about the potential harm to patients enrolled in active studies.

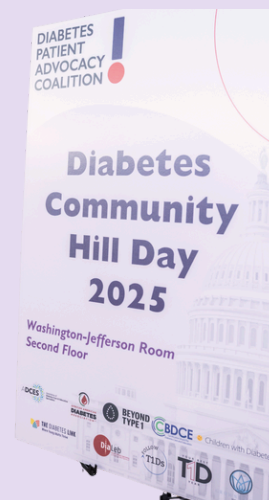
DPAC elevated concerns about the enforcement of Section 504 protections for students with diabetes. Advocates brought this issue to Congress, emphasizing the need for full staffing and funding of the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights to prevent catastrophic risks to children in schools.

# Community Hill Day 2025

In 2025, DPAC brought the diabetes community together to share a unified voice with lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Advocates from across the country held 95 meetings with Congressional offices, including 54 House and 41 Senate offices. These conversations focused on a broad set of bipartisan priorities, such as:

- Increasing PBM transparency and lowering patient costs
- Protecting access to diabetes technology amid competitive bidding proposals
- Addressing the obesity epidemic through TROA and coverage of obesity management medications
- Improving Medicare coverage of Diabetes Self-Management Training
- Protecting Affordable Care Act premium tax credits



DPAC welcomed 10 partner organizations from across the diabetes community to join us on Capitol Hill.



**50**  
Attendees  
*in-person*



**95**  
Meetings



**29**  
States  
Represented



# Brown Bag Webinars and DPAC Dialogues Launch

This year, we launched DPAC Dialogues, a flexible, multi-format, community-driven platform designed to explore pressing issues in diabetes advocacy. The DPAC Brown Bag series — now a part of DPAC Dialogues content — continued to provide timely education through interactive monthly webinars. These events addressed emerging policy issues and community needs, always paired with an advocacy lens or call to action.



## In 2025, DPAC:

- Published 8 DPAC Dialogues videos since launching in July 2025
- Hosted 9 Brown Bag events
- Welcomed over 400 live attendees and over 10,000 asynchronous views

## Some popular 2025 content included:

- The History of Diabetes Policy & Our Rights
- Improving Access in Under-Resourced Communities
- Medicare is Changing Access to Diabetes Technology
- The Future of Diabetes: Community Voices

## Featuring perspectives from:

- DPAC advocacy partners, including PWD, clinicians, policy experts, and more
- Social media influencers and content creators
- DPAC Champion Corps
- DPAC and DLC Board of Directors



# State Advocacy

2025 state advocacy focused heavily on equitable access and innovation in health care, advancing early detection of T1D through education and screening, and reducing barriers to longstanding and emerging treatments.

Advocates engaged in twelve states to support legislation requiring state departments of education and health to provide parents of school-aged children with information about the symptoms and risks of type 1 diabetes, as well as opportunities for intervention. Bills were also introduced in Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, and Texas.

As a result of these efforts, bills were passed and signed into law in:

- **Arkansas**
- **Delaware**
- **Florida**
- **New Hampshire**
- **Ohio**
- **Tennessee**

The Patient Pocket Protector Coalition engaged on rebate pass-through legislation in eight states, with North Carolina becoming the fifth state to enact a rebate pass-through requirement benefiting patients. DPAC state government affairs activities included evaluating and tracking more than 200 bills nationwide and actively supporting more than 35 of those measures through letters of support, testimony at legislative hearings, more than 20 meetings with state legislators, and coordinated engagement of Champion Corps members. More than a dozen of the measures supported by DPAC were enacted into law.

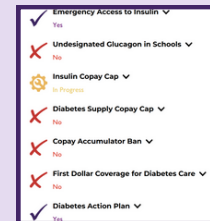


Champion Corps member Jessica von Goeler testifies with DLC board member Paul Madden in Massachusetts in support of PBM reform legislation.



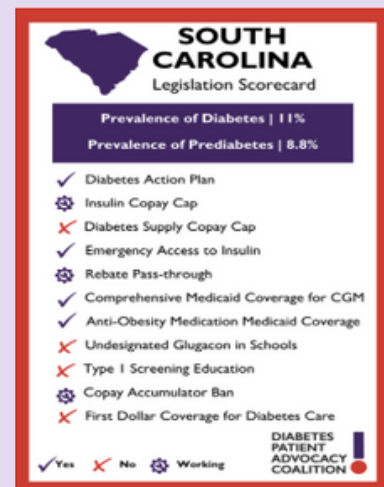
# Diabetes & Obesity State Legislative Handbook

The mobile handbook now has user-friendly state scorecards that are updated in real time!



## The latest edition includes:

- De-linking PBM drug profits, taking the profit motive out of prescription drug coverage
- Obesity treatment and coverage for obesity management medication
- Protect coverage for prosthetics and orthotics based on patients' functional needs.
- Education on type I diabetes onset stages and screening
- Other innovative policy solutions that address care and treatment barriers



Our recent web update allows users to compare legislative efforts and state scorecards with ease and has optimized the user experience to easily search our recommended policy solutions.

As 2026 legislative sessions were set to begin, DPAC digital promotions garnered over 1 million impressions, including 5,163 site visitors who downloaded the handbook at 40% higher rates than in 2024. DPAC has also developed and distributed a mini-handbook offering high-level stats and QR codes to the full digital handbook and legislative scorecards.

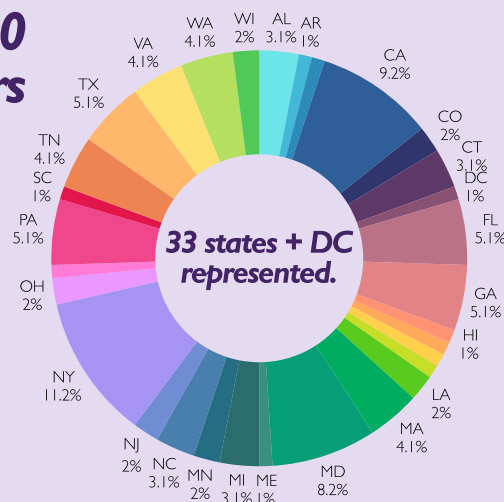


# Champion Corps

Established in 2022, the DPAC Champion Corps serves as advisors to our work and leaders in their communities. This committed group of grassroots advocates **has more than tripled in size** and deepened their engagement through regular meetings, participating in DPAC events and programs, testifying in state and federal legislature and connecting with one another in support of the diabetes community.

In 2025, we focused on our **engagement** with the Champion Corps, fostering a more connected and collaborative community. Members grew closer through increased opportunities to exchange ideas and support one another, including the launch of a dedicated Slack channel to facilitate ongoing communication.

**Over 100 members**



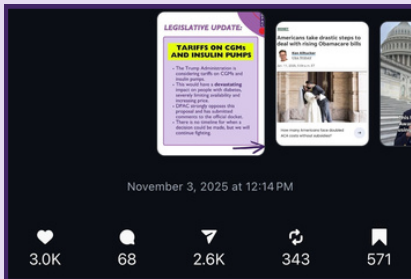
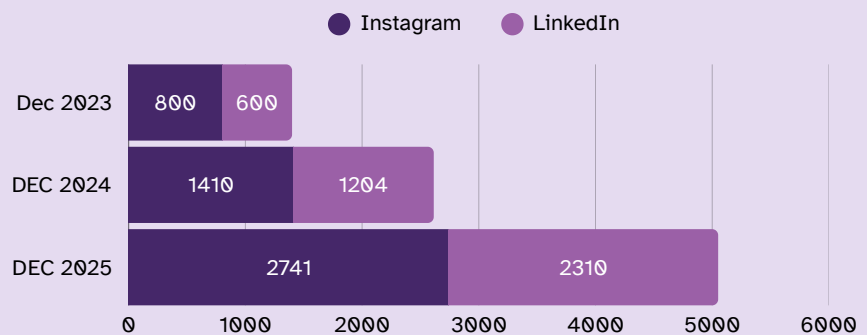
**In 2025,**

- Champion Corps members made up the majority of our video content on all channels
- Over **40** members were featured on DPAC media, including DPAC Dialogues and Brown Bags
- Members met with legislators virtually in their home states and in Washington, DC throughout the year

# Social Media & Reach

This year, we significantly expanded both our reach and level of engagement. Beyond consistent posting, we hosted Instagram Lives and webinars, launched interactive polls and campaign series, highlighted advocates through spotlights, produced short-form video content and skits, shared reels, issued press releases, and more — creating multiple, meaningful ways for our community to connect with our work.

## Follower Increases Since 2023:



Our highest reaching post this year amassed over **179K** views organically.



DPAC hosted a fireside chat with Congresswoman Kim Schrier, MD in Seattle, Washington.





## *Letter from our COO:*

2025 was a year that tested the health care system, and the resolve of the diabetes community, in new ways. Rising costs, shifting federal priorities, and uneven access to care reinforced a reality we know too well: progress does not happen without persistent, informed, and organized patient advocacy. At DPAC, that reality shaped every decision we made this year.

Rather than reacting to policy change, we focused on building durable influence. We invested in advocate training, expanded our presence in state and federal policy conversations, and intentionally centered the voices of people living with diabetes in spaces where decisions are made. Whether through grassroots engagement, coalition work, or direct education of lawmakers, DPAC worked to ensure that patient experience was not an afterthought, but a foundation.

One of the most powerful lessons of 2025 has been the strength of connection. Advocates across the country showed up not only to speak for themselves, but for families, caregivers, and communities who are too often unheard. Their willingness to share lived experience—clearly, strategically, and courageously—continued to move policy conversations toward solutions that prioritize affordability, transparency, and equitable access to care.

This year also marked continued growth for DPAC as an organization. We strengthened partnerships, welcomed new advocates into our community, and deepened engagement with longtime champions. Behind the scenes, our staff and board worked to ensure that this growth was matched with strong governance, clear strategy, and responsible stewardship.

Looking ahead, the work remains urgent. The policy landscape will continue to evolve, and challenges to access and affordability persist. But I am confident in our direction and our community. DPAC enters the next year focused, prepared, and grounded in the belief that informed patient voices can—and do—change outcomes.

Thank you for being part of this work and for standing with DPAC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Erin M. Callahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Erin M. Callahan  
Chief Operating Officer

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**ANNA NORTON, MS**



*Thank you to our Champions and partners for your tireless advocacy this year.*

## 2025 Impact at a Glance

- 1,320+** petition signatures opposing Medicaid cuts  
with **47** states represented
- 2450** letters submitted to Congress & CMS opposing competitive bidding program
- 96** Champion Corps members engaged to protect ACA subsidies and share EOY priorities



Diabetes Patient  
Advocacy Coalition



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