



CENTER FOR HEALTH LAW  
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**Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School Launches Federal Report on Type 2 Diabetes Prevention, Management, and Policy Reform:**

**Initiates a Series of Federal Policy Roundtables to Support Implementation of Report Recommendations**

**WASHINGTON, DC** (May 19, 2015) – The Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation (CHLPI) of Harvard Law School released the 2015 Providing Access to Healthy Solutions (PATHS) Federal Report, [\*Beating Type 2 Diabetes: Recommendations for Federal Policy Reform\*](#), during an event today on Capitol Hill. The Federal Report, developed with the support and guidance of people living with and at-risk-for diabetes, health and social service professionals, food providers and producers, government officials and other stakeholders, offers specific recommendations to decrease the incidence of type 2 diabetes and to promote effective management of the disease in those who have already been diagnosed.

The PATHS Federal Report release also includes the kick-off of a series of federal policy roundtables, with today's roundtable, *Beating Type 2 Diabetes: A Policy Roundtable on Increasing Access to the Diabetes Prevention Program and Diabetes Self-Management Education*, focused on the need for stronger national laws and policies to support cost-effective diabetes prevention and self-management programs. The roundtables will gather thought leaders from across disciplines, including legislators, federal and state agency staff, health payers and providers, and diabetes advocates, to move the diabetes policy agenda forward as outlined in the Federal Report.

*PATHS* is part of the *Together on Diabetes* initiative, a major endeavor launched by the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation (BMSF) in 2010, that supports community-based organization across the United States that are working to improve the health outcomes of people living with type 2 diabetes by strengthening patient self-management education, community-based supportive services and broad-based community mobilization.

“As diabetes is the 7<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States and causes more deaths per year than breast cancer and AIDS combined, CHLPI's Federal Report and today's roundtable stress the significance of preventive measures to avoid type 2 diabetes and sheds light on policy reform to ensure that those living with the disease are provided with quality treatment,” says

Robert Greenwald, JD, Director of CHLPI and Clinical Professor of Law at Harvard Law School.

Greenwald adds, “Without federal action, one in three Americans will be diagnosed with type 2 diabetes by 2050. The staggering total cost of the disease to the US is up to \$245 billion dollars a year and continuing to climb.”

For the first roundtable, panelists include: Dr. Ann Albright (Director of the Division of Diabetes Translation at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention); Dr. Kenneth Thorpe (Chairman of the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease and Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management at Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University); Francine Grabowski (leading diabetes educator at the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers); and Katie Adamson (Senior Director Health Partnerships and Policy at the YMCA of the USA).

The panelists will lead off a discussion among health professionals and government officials on the need to take action to positively influence the future of diabetes in America. Panelists will focus on the importance of enacting legislation that supports the development of a National Diabetes Prevention Program in Medicare coverage with no cost-sharing and providing guidance to state Medicaid programs on covering this service through State Plan Amendments or other waivers.

In addition to the recommendations addressed during the first roundtable session, the Federal Report calls for including evidence-based diabetes and prediabetes services in Essential Health Benefits to improve health and reduce costs, including coverage in Medicare of medically-appropriate food as a cost-effective diabetes intervention and providing guidance to state Medicaid programs about covering this service through State Plan Amendments or other waivers, maintaining strong federal nutrition standards for school lunch and increase school meal reimbursement rates; and encouraging states to develop holistic and coordinated diabetes care models through diabetes-specific Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation Awards. These subjects will be addressed at future roundtable meetings held in Washington, DC.

Visit [www.diabetespolicy.org](http://www.diabetespolicy.org) for more information about the PATHS initiative and to find the Federal Report, [\*Beating Type 2 Diabetes: Recommendations for Federal Policy Reform.\*](#)

About PATHS: PATHS is an initiative led by the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School. PATHS works to strengthen federal, state, and local efforts to improve type 2 diabetes treatment and prevention through the development and implementation of strategic law and policy reform initiatives that can bolster these efforts, including federal and state level research reports.

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