

House Bill 5351 (Bellock)

Improving Access to Healthcare for Seniors



Diabetes is an epidemic in the United States – 12.5% or **1,325,000 Illinois adults**, suffer from the disease. This number is expected to at least double by 2050. Add to that, another **3,591,000 Illinois adults** who have pre-diabetes with blood glucose levels higher than normal but are not yet diagnosed. And diabetes is expensive. People with diabetes have medical expenses that are typically **2.3 times higher** than those without the disease.

Telehealth is not a separate and distinct service, rather a modality that enables providers to deliver already-covered care in a way that improves health and lowers the costs without increasing utilization. **This bill would add licensed dietitian nutritionists and certified diabetic educators to existing telehealth coverage so seniors can receive diabetic care in their home.** This removes a significant transportation hurdle, improves the quality of care and avoids costly hospital stays more a manageable, chronic disease.

Better for Our Community... your Dad lives across town and is a diabetic. You live nearby and are thankful you can help because he no longer drives. Unfortunately, taking him to his regular appointments while working full-time is difficult and he often misses them. The doctor has suggested he could reduce his medications if he could stick to a diet and exercise regime. Weekly check-ins with his educator via telehealth help him develop a relationship with the educator, provides him with regular social interaction, and helps him manage his condition with less medication and a better diet.

**Please Co-Sponsor and Vote Yes on House Bill 5351
to Help Seniors with Diabetes!**

Presence Health is a part of AMITA Health, the largest Catholic health system based in Illinois. The network includes 20 hospitals and 230 points of care serving over 5.2 million Illinoisans every year. AMITA Health employs more than 26,000 associates and 7,500 physician partners.