

# Diabetes in Kentucky

## *The Diabetes Message for Legislators*

**Thank you for all that you have done over the last several years to address the problem of diabetes in Kentucky:**

- Requiring state regulated insurance plans to cover diabetes self management education and diabetes care supplies.
- Adding Diabetes to the Kentucky Death Certificate.
- Improving school nutrition in lunch programs and vending machines.
- Helping ensure the medical safety of children with diabetes in KY by permitting non-medical volunteer school personnel to be trained in Glucagon administration.
- Increase in state funding of the KY Diabetes Prevention and Control Program.
- Funding for the Diabetes Centers of Excellence.
- Establishment of the Kentucky Diabetes Research Board.

**With all that has been achieved, much remains to be done to improve the lives of Kentuckians with Diabetes:**

- The incidence of diabetes continues to increase nationwide and in Kentucky.
- The number of people with diabetes complications such as: heart disease and stroke, blindness, kidney failure, amputation and even death; and the costs to treat these complications continue to increase.
- Trend data shows that increases in the rate of diabetes mimic increases in the obesity rate, with a 6 year time lag. That means if the obesity rate leveled off today the diabetes rate would continue to increase through the year 2012.

**Please continue to support efforts to stem the tide of diabetes in Kentucky by:**

- Preserving both private and public (Medicaid) insurance coverage for people with diabetes.
- Continuing efforts to improve physical activity in schools (support HB299/SB110).
- Funding the KY Diabetes Research Board.
- Supporting HB383 re: proposals funded by the KY Diabetes Research Board.