

October 17, 2025

The Honorable Kay Ivey
Governor of Alabama
State Capitol
Montgomery, AL 36130

Re: Improving Medicaid Access to Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGMs) for Alabamians in the FY2026 State Budget and Beyond

Dear Governor Ivey,

On behalf of the 15 undersigned organizations, representing patients, providers, and other groups interested in improving care for people with diabetes, we thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of the 700,000 Alabamians diagnosed with diabetes.¹ We are particularly grateful that you expanded access to continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) in Medicaid in the FY2026 budget.

As the United States Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. noted before Congress:

“People can take control of their health. They can take responsibility. They can see what food is doing to their glucose levels ... We think that wearables are key to the [Make America Healthy Again] agenda.”²

Expanded access to CGMs was also a cause close to the heart of the late Graham Champion, who was well known within Alabama state government. He dedicated significant time and energy to this issue and was a tireless advocate for improving care for individuals living with diabetes.

The recent expansion of CGM access under Alabama Medicaid represents meaningful progress and an important step forward. However, it does not yet fully align with the

¹ *The Burden of Diabetes in Alabama*. American Diabetes Association. (2023, March).
https://diabetes.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/ADV_2023_State_Fact_sheets_all_rev_Alabama.pdf

² *Health Subcommittee Hearing: The fiscal year 2026 Department of Health and Human Services Budget*. House Committee on Energy and Commerce. (2025, June 24).
<https://energycommerce.house.gov/events/health-subcommittee-hearing-the-fiscal-year-2026-department-of-health-and-human-services-budget>

standards of care recommended by doctors and diabetes care management professionals. We look forward to continuing our work with your team in the upcoming year to build on Alabama Medicaid's impressive efforts and ensure that Alabama is empowering more individuals and families affected by diabetes and meeting current standards of care. Notably, the recent policy change expanded access to all adults with Type 1 diabetes and adults with Type 2 diabetes who require three or more insulin injections every day. However, the current standards of care are to provide CGMs to:³

- Anyone on any type of insulin, regardless of how it is administered;
- Adults with Type 2 diabetes who are treated with glucose-lowering medications other than insulin;
- Anyone at high-risk for hypoglycemia; and
- Women who are pregnant with any type of diabetes, including gestational diabetes.

We kindly request that Alabama Medicaid provide this coverage as both a durable medical equipment (DME) and pharmacy benefit.

As you know, Alabama continues to be deeply impacted by the diabetes epidemic and has one of the highest rates of diabetes in the nation. CGMs are a cost-saving technology that help people with diabetes manage their disease, stay healthy and at work or in school, and avoid preventable complications and needless and costly hospitalizations. According to the American Diabetes Association, diabetes and prediabetes cost Alabama an estimated \$5.4 billion dollars annually, due to the high cost of addressing serious complications like heart disease, stroke, and end-stage kidney disease, as well as the loss of productivity.⁴

Your continued leadership on this important issue will help empower more families to take control of their health and fight the diabetes epidemic in Alabama. CGMs are a critical component in this effort. These devices offer real-time monitoring and management of blood glucose levels for children and adults, including pregnant women, and have been shown to reduce emergency room visits and hospitalizations.

Once again, we sincerely thank you for your steadfast commitment to improving diabetes care in Alabama. We are especially grateful that you have continued to build on your impressive track record by improving access to CGMs in Medicaid. We understand that your administration is managing significant health care priorities, including the

³American Diabetes Association Professional Practice Committee. 7. Diabetes technology: Standards of Care in Diabetes—2025. *Diabetes Care* 2025;48(Suppl. 1):S146–S166

⁴ *The Burden of Diabetes in Alabama*. American Diabetes Association. (n.d.).
<http://main.diabetes.org/dorg/PDFs/Advocacy/burden-of-diabetes/alabama.pdf>

implementation of the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act, and we remain eager to work with you to strengthen Alabama Medicaid and leave a lasting legacy for you and your team.

Sincerely,

Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice

Alabama Council for Behavioral Healthcare

BirthWell Partners

Community Enabler Developer, Inc.

Diabetes Leadership Council

Faith in Action Alabama

Fall Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation Services LLC

Families USA

Five Horizons Health Services

March of Dimes

The Arc of Alabama

The Common Touch

Together for Hope

Unity Wellness Center

VOICES for Alabama's Children

Cc: Dave White, Policy Advisor, Governor Kay Ivey
Bo Offord, Commissioner, Alabama Medicaid