

Immediate Release
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REP. COOK TO SERVE ON DIABETES ADVISORY COUNCIL

State Representative Michelle Cook (D-Torrington) has been chosen to participate on the Diabetes Advisory Council that is being convened by the Department of Public Health.

“I am honored to be part of a council that will ultimately help and improve the lives of those in the diabetes community,” Rep. Cook said. “It is important that we continue to review and discuss strategies for diabetes prevention and enhance the current state programs that address diabetes control and treatment. As a member of the Public Health Committee, I have been committed to discussing solutions to health problems and I am very pleased that I will have the opportunity to continue doing that on this council.”

“I've championed legislation for the past couple years to ensure the Department of Public Health focuses on keeping our residents healthy,” Cook said. “Legislation that helps our residents maintain a healthy lifestyle will keep them out of hospitals and ultimately extend their lifespans. Additionally, keeping residents out of hospitals will be more cost effective for the state and keep health care costs for residents down.”

This past legislative session, Cook led the fight to pass An Act Establishing A Firefighters Cancer Relief Program, which provides a wage replacement program for those firefighters who have acquired cancer from working on the job. Cook also co-sponsored An Act Concerning Medicaid Coverage For Diabetes Prevention and Self-Management Education Services, An Act Concerning a Diabetes Action Plan, and An Act Concerning Newborn Screening for Pompe Disease. Although these bills did not pass this session, Cook will continue to push for their passage in the future.

This Council is comprised of various members of the diabetes care community. In addition to reviewing strategies to identify and enroll individuals at risk of diabetes in diabetes prevention programs, the Council will also make recommendations to enhance and financially support such programs.

The Council will submit a progress report on its findings and recommendations to the Public Health Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly by January 1, 2017. A final report on its findings and recommendations will be submitted to the same committee by May 1, 2017.