FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Diabetes Leadership Council Honors the Kentucky Prescription Assistance Program with State Champion Award

FRANKFORT, KY - The Diabetes Leadership Council (DLC), a diabetes and health care reform advocacy organization advancing patient-centered policies at the local, state and federal levels, today announced it honored the Kentucky Prescription Assistance Program (KPAP) with a Diabetes Champion Award at the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services on Friday, January 6, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

The DLC Diabetes Champion Awards recognize those who are advancing patient-centered legislation and programs. The award is presented to the most effective lawmakers and program leaders based on their public commitment and legislative actions to innovate new solutions that improve health outcomes and quality of life for the 37 million individuals living with diabetes and 90 million who have pre-diabetes.

Introduced in 2009 by Representative Jimmie Lee, KPAP has received bipartisan approval from both chambers and every governor every year since. KPAP carries a $600K annual line item for the Cabinet for Health and Family, a line item which results in enormous benefits. Last year, the program yielded $43 million in free or reduced cost prescriptions, and 70 times the value of the state’s investment. KPAP helped 3,700 Kentuckians and trained 200 advocates serving all 120 Kentucky counties.

“KPAP sets an example we would like to see other states follow,” said Stewart Perry, Chair of the DLC Board of Directors. “All too often, we see public officials who are all talk and no action. In Kentucky, we have a role model in KPAP. We encourage lawmakers at every level of government, local, state and federal, to look to KPAP as an example, and seek out similar opportunities to keep prescriptions affordable for their constituents.”

The DLC Diabetes Champion Award included in-person presentations of an engraved award. Expected to attend were Eric Friedlander, Secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Dr. Connie White, Deputy Commissioner at the Department for Public Health; Elizabeth Goode, KPAP Program Director; Stewart Perry, Chairman of the DLC Board of Directors; Larry Smith, Treasurer of DLC; and Julie Babbage, Executive Director of the Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition.
DLC is a 501(c)(3) patient advocacy organization comprised of individuals who combine their passion for advocacy with decades of diabetes experience and leadership to advance patients-first policies at the local, state and national levels. Our members – all former leaders of national diabetes organizations – engage policymakers, and public and private sector influencers to call attention to the diabetes epidemic and provide a voice for 37 million Americans living with the disease.