Diabetes is currently one of the 10 leading causes of death in Kentucky. In 2015, 567,000 people in Kentucky were estimated to have diabetes, and the disease was estimated to affect the health of 15.3 percent of the adult population. Not only does diabetes cause detriment to the well-being of Kentucky’s citizens, but it also puts a tremendous financial burden on the state.

In 2014, 108,000 non-traumatic lower limb amputations were performed in the US due to diabetes. The average cost of each amputation is $70,434. Research shows yearly visits to a podiatrist by those with diabetes can decrease the risk of lower limb amputation by up to 80 percent. Kentucky projects a total of 721,000 people living with diabetes at a cost of $6.9 billion by 2025. For more information, visit www.apma.org/diabetes.

Investing in Care by Podiatrists

- While diabetes is the leading cause of non-traumatic lower limb amputation, these amputations can be prevented.
- Every $1 invested in care by a podiatrist results in $27 to $51 of savings for the health-care system among patients with commercial insurance. For Medicare-eligible patients, every $1 invested in care by a podiatrist results in $9 to $13 of savings.
- The inclusion of care provided by podiatrists for those with diabetes alone will save the health-care system $3.5 billion per year.
- As a cost-cutting measure, Arizona removed patient access to DPMs in June 2010. However, after data indicated Arizona actually increased Medicaid spending by $48 for every $1 in projected savings, Arizona reinstated DPMs in the Medicaid program in 2016.