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Harvard Law School's Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation Hosts Capstone Discussion on Diabetes Initiative

WASHINGTON, DC (June 17, 2016) – The Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation (CHLPI) of Harvard Law School will host *Envisioning the Future of Type 2 Diabetes Policy: A PATHS Capstone Discussion* in Washington, D.C. on Monday, June 20, 2016. The capstone discussion will bring together experts to shape and drive CHLPI's next steps to advance a diabetes policy agenda. The goal of this event is to focus our work and our partners' work on the most promising strategies for improving nationwide health outcomes and addressing health disparities for people at risk for or living with type 2 diabetes.

Since 2012, CHLPI has worked in close partnership with numerous stakeholders to lead diabetes policy work at the local, state, and federal level as part of its Providing Access to Healthy Solutions (PATHS) initiative. By providing technical assistance and advocacy support to community-based advocates and providers and publishing research reports and hosting events for diabetes stakeholders, CHLPI has helped to identify and address gaps in diabetes services, promote opportunities for structural and systemic diabetes law and policy reforms, and establish stronger partnerships. Since the start of the PATHS initiative, CHLPI has seen tremendous success and promising movement in crucial areas of diabetes policy, such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' 2016 announcement of its intention to provide Medicare coverage for the National Diabetes Prevention Program and the integration of food and nutrition services in Medicaid Managed Care and dual demonstration programs across the country.

Robert Greenwald, JD, Faculty Director of CHLPI and Clinical Professor of Law at Harvard Law School says, "When we began the PATHS initiative, we were primarily focused on opportunities in state diabetes policy. However, we quickly saw common challenges and opportunities across states and recognized that in order to successfully address the impact of type 2 diabetes in the United States significant reforms had to take place at the federal, state, and local levels. Through collaboration with both community-based and national partners and cooperation from forward-thinking local, state, and federal government decision-makers we have seen some real progress over the last four years."

The capstone discussion builds off of CHLPI's PATHS initiative by assessing its accomplishments while looking toward next steps and the future of diabetes law and policy advocacy work. At the event, attendees will discuss key opportunities in the current policy landscape, including: strategies that have been most successful in moving the needle in critical areas in diabetes prevention and management; how to engage stakeholders who could play a larger role in the diabetes dialogue; areas where initial

progress can be leveraged to drive broader change; and opportunities for ongoing collaboration and partnerships. Also during the capstone discussion, CHLPI will release [Beating Type 2 Diabetes: Best Practices for States](#), a report that outlines key policies and practices for states that want to improve access to preventive services, care, and treatment for type 2 diabetes.

Greenwald goes on to say, “We’re grateful for the opportunity to engage in this work. Although the PATHS initiative is winding down, CHLPI is committed to driving diabetes policy forward. The capstone discussion is really the first step in the next iteration of our diabetes work. We will continue to use the tools that law and policy offer us to address health disparities and dramatically reduce the serious burden of diabetes on far too many people.”

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About PATHS

PATHS is part of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation’s *Together on Diabetes™* Initiative, which was launched in 2010 with the goal to improve the health outcomes of people living with type 2 diabetes in the United States by strengthening patient self-management education, community-based supportive services, and broad-based community mobilization. The PATHS initiative is led by the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School. PATHS works to strengthen federal, state, and local efforts to improve type 2 diabetes treatment and prevention through the development and implementation of strategic law and policy reform initiatives that can bolster these efforts, including federal and state-level research reports. Visit www.diabetespolicy.org for more information.