



**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF DIABETES EDUCATORS**

## **Opposition to the Administration's Proposal for Reduced Diabetes Research and Prevention Funding**

The American Association of Diabetes Educators, because of its membership's commitment to quality diabetes care, opposes the Bush Administration's efforts to reduce funding for diabetes research and prevention at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Under the Administration's proposed budget, funding for the NIH National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) would receive \$11 million less than last year. Additionally, funding for chronic disease prevention at the CDC would be funded at \$819 million, a \$20 million reduction from last year. This would dramatically weaken the efforts of the CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation, which runs state-based Diabetes Prevention and Control Programs that help persons with diabetes better control and manage the disease and help those at risk prevent or delay its onset.

The nation's healthcare system and economy are threatened by the diabetes epidemic. According to the CDC, 20.8 million Americans have diabetes and one-third of those are undiagnosed. There are approximately 47,816 people living with diabetes in every Congressional District. The total cost of diabetes, direct and indirect, in 2002 was \$132 billion. It is a leading cause of death in America, but it is a disease that is both preventable and controllable. Recent research has demonstrated that diabetes and its complications can be prevented or delayed.

Diabetes is a disease that demands great federal attention, yet the Administration's response is to weaken the federal resources needed to fight this national epidemic.

### **The American Association of Diabetes Educators calls on Congress to:**

- Increase funding for diabetes research at NIH. This would give researchers and health professionals nationwide the vital tools and resources they need to combat diabetes and help patients with diabetes better self manage their disease, which can lead to serious long-term health complications such as heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness and amputations.
- Increase funding for the CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation. This would support work in local communities to help those with diabetes better control the disease and its complications, and to help those at risk of developing diabetes to prevent or delay its onset.

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