

February 27, 2019

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the 114 million Americans with or at risk of diabetes, the undersigned organizations respectfully request that you join the letter that the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, Congresswoman DeGette and Congressman Reed, are circulating in support of the Special Diabetes Program (SDP).

Both components of the SDP provide a clear return on investment. Through the Indian Health Service, the SDP provides tribal and urban Indian grantees with funding for diabetes prevention and treatment and has slowed the rate of diabetes prevalence in Native American adults, prevented an increase in diabetes rates in youth, and led to long-term control of diabetes. SDP funding at the National Institutes of Health has supported targeted, high-risk, high-reward research projects toward a cure and better therapies for diabetes, leading to artificial pancreas technology, therapies for diabetic retinopathy that improve vision enough that people can drive again, and furthering our understanding of what environmental factors may or may not influence the onset of type 1 diabetes.

Congressman Reed and Congresswoman DeGette are tireless champions of the Special Diabetes Program; a similar letter that they circulated in 2016 was supported by over 80% of the House of Representatives. Please join the enclosed letter today and to demonstrate your support for this important program.

Sincerely,

American Association of Diabetes Educators  
American Diabetes Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
Children with Diabetes  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.  
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition  
Endocrine Society  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
JDRF  
Lions Clubs International  
National Council of Urban Indian Health  
National Indian Health Board  
National Kidney Foundation  
Omada Health

cc: All Members of the House of Representatives