

SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL

February 3, 2016

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned organizations are pleased to offer our support for ***H.R. 4209 - Minority Diabetes Initiative Act***, which was introduced on December 10, 2015 by Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA). Recognizing the high prevalence of diabetes within minority populations in America, we seek your support and encourage co-sponsorship of H.R. 4209, as an initiative to provide grants to physicians and community-based organizations for diabetes prevention and control education, routine care and various treatment programs in minority communities.

Collectively, we represent associations, organizations, and corporations that work to educate, inform, and advocate for diabetes-related issues. We recognize the disproportionate impact and high prevalence diabetes has on minorities, and therefore seek to support legislation that tackles this epidemic. According to the 2014 National Diabetes Statistics Report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 9.0 percent of Asian Americans, 12.8 percent of Latino Americans, 13.2 percent of African Americans, and 15.9 percent of American Indians/Alaska Natives have been diagnosed with diabetes.

H.R. 4209 would establish an initiative to provide grants to physicians and community-based organizations that work with and for minority populations for a variety of diabetes-related health services, including public education on diabetes prevention and control, routine health care for diabetic patients, eye care, foot care, and treatment for kidney disease and other complications associated with diabetes. Not only would this legislation improve the lives of minorities affected by diabetes, but it would also help to diminish the significance of diabetes in these populations.

As the prevalence of diabetes continues to grow in America, so do rates of the disease and associated complications within minority populations. According to the CDC, as many as 1 in 3 adults could have diabetes by 2050 – and trends will continue to rise. The passage and enactment of this legislation, *H.R. 4209 – Minority Diabetes Initiative Act*, would ease the burden and be an actionable step towards stopping diabetes.

We again ask for your support in the form of co-sponsorship of H.R. 4209. If you might have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Kathleen Sengstock of Congresswoman Waters' staff at (202) 225-2201.

Sincerely,

American Association of Diabetes Educators
Diabetes Hands Foundation
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Diabetes Association