

July 26, 2007

Chairman John Dingell
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Charles Rangel
House Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Dingell and Rangel,

On behalf of the 20.8 million children and adults in America with diabetes, and the 54 million with pre-diabetes, I would like to express our gratitude for the inclusion of a one year-extension of the Special Diabetes Programs in H.R. 3162, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007. The American Diabetes Association appreciates this important first-step toward securing continuity and growth for these critical programs to prevent, treat and cure diabetes.

As you know, the Special Statutory Funding Program for Type 1 Diabetes Research and Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) were originally funded through the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) when they were created ten years ago. These programs provide funding for type 1 research as well as treatment and prevention programs for American Indian populations who are affected by diabetes in disproportionate numbers. In fact, SDPI grants fund youth programs and innovative diabetes prevention activities for thousands of children in tribal communities throughout the country. At 17 percent, American Indians have the highest age-adjusted prevalence of diabetes among all U.S. racial and ethnic groups. The type 1 program represents approximately 35% of the total federal investment in type 1 diabetes research, which leads to hope for a cure and better treatments to the 20.8 million children and adults living with diabetes in the U.S. The American Diabetes Association strongly supports reauthorizing the Special Diabetes Programs for five years as part of our effort to increase diabetes funding for all Americans and to address the needs of Americans disproportionately impacted by diabetes.

The effort to continue these important programs is a top advocacy priority for the American Diabetes Association and we stand ready to work with you toward the passage of H.R. 3162, and toward opportunities to extend the reauthorization as the bill moves through the legislative process. Please feel free to contact Angie Montes, Director of Federal Government Relations, at 703-299-2087 or amontes@diabetes.org, if we can be of service in this effort or other diabetes-related issues.

Warm regards,



Darlene L. Cain
Chair of the Board

National Office

1701 North Beauregard Street
Alexandria, VA 22311
Tel: 703-549-1500

Diabetes Information

call 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383)
online www.diabetes.org
The Association gratefully accepts gifts through your will.

The Mission of the American

Diabetes Association is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.