

October 2, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of the 114 million Americans living with or at risk for diabetes, the undersigned organizations are grateful for your leadership and steadfast commitment to the Special Diabetes Program. As you work to reauthorize the Children's Health insurance Program, we urge you and your colleagues to approve a long-term renewal of both components of SDP. Critical research towards a cure for type 1 diabetes and programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives are in jeopardy the longer a renewal is delayed. These programs have wide bipartisan support—in 2016 356 House Members and 75 Senators signed letters endorsing the reauthorization of both the Special Statutory Program for Type 1 Diabetes Research (SDP-type 1) and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI).

As you know, SDP-type 1 funds type 1 diabetes research at the National Institutes of Health, which has accelerated our understanding of how to improve outcomes for people with type 1 diabetes. This dedicated funding has yielded better treatments and tangible progress towards a cure for type 1 diabetes. SDPI supports treatment and prevention in American Indian and Alaska Native communities impacted by type 2 diabetes at a rate of 15.1 percent, prevalence higher than any other minority population in the United States. SDPI has resulted in a 54 percent reduction in kidney failure rates among Native American populations between 1996 and 2013.

These programs, which have a proven track record of success, are currently funded at \$150 million per program per year. Without an immediate, sustained investment by Congress for both components of the SDP, promising research and prevention programs will be compromised. Our organizations ask you to take immediate steps to provide a multi-year renewal of the SDP.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists
American Diabetes Association
JDRF
National Indian Health Board
The Endocrine Society