

Eric D. Hargan  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Washington, D.C. 20201

October 16, 2017

Dear Acting Secretary Hargan,

The undersigned organizations representing physicians, allied health professionals, patients, community health organizations and industry, urge you to act expeditiously to implement the National Clinical Care Commission Act (S. 920/HR 309) after it is signed into law. This legislation has been passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The United States spends \$322 billion annually controlling the high blood glucose levels that characterize diabetes and the cardiac, nerve, kidney, eye and newly recognized cancer-related complications of these diseases. Given this annual level of spending, the nation cannot afford to be complacent and accept inefficiencies and inconsistent policies as part of the federal response.

As organizations who have advocated for passage of this legislation over the last six years, we believe the Commission established under this law will help the nation undertake more proactive and innovative approaches to diabetes and its disease complications, which represent the most significant insulin-related metabolic or autoimmune diseases we face as a nation. The Commission can help to facilitate a change from agencies working in silos to a coordinated national response to diabetes and can help to ensure that new innovative medications and devices, such as the artificial pancreas, are effectively translated to the clinical setting, getting to patients who need them most.

We urge you to move quickly to facilitate the process to appoint Commission members so the Commission can begin its important work as soon as possible. The clinical expertise and practical experience brought to federal decision-making by representatives from clinical endocrinology, cardiology, nephrology, eye care professionals, primary care physicians, diabetes educators, dietitian and nutrition professionals, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals and patient advocates, will facilitate recommendations for new strategies to improve patient care. Clinical training and expertise in diabetes and other insulin-related diseases will be needed to lead the Commission and it is our hope that a clinical endocrinologist will be chosen to serve as the Chairperson of the Commission.

Through innovation, collaboration, and application of advances in care, the Commission will improve the lives of the tens of millions of Americans living with diabetes, while simultaneously beginning to reduce the staggering impact of diabetes and its disease complications on our healthcare system. These two critical objectives have united our organizations in advocacy for this initiative and we are looking forward to the Commission being established and starting to work.

Sincerely,

Abbott  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists  
American Association of Diabetes Educators  
American Association of Kidney Patients  
American Clinical Laboratory Association  
American College of Cardiology  
American Diabetes Association

American Optometric Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery  
American Society of Endocrine Physician Assistants  
American Society of Nephrology  
Amgen  
Ascensia Diabetes Care  
AstraZeneca  
BD  
Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists  
Boehringer Ingelheim  
Children With Diabetes  
Dexcom, Inc.  
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition  
diaTribe Foundation  
Eli Lilly and Company  
Endocrine Society  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Insulet Corporation  
Johnson & Johnson  
JDRF  
Medtronic  
Merck  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores  
National Kidney Foundation  
Novo Nordisk, Inc.  
Obesity Action Coalition  
Obesity Medicine Association  
Omada Health, Inc.  
Pediatric Endocrine Society  
Renal Physicians Association  
Sanofi  
The Obesity Society  
Weight Watchers International  
YMCA of the USA