



March 11, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on LHHS
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on LHHS
United States Senate
Washington, DC 2051

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on LHHS
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on LHHS
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt, Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Murray and Ranking Member Cole:

As the Subcommittees begin deliberations on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, the undersigned organizations of the Diabetes Advocacy Alliance™ (DAA) ask you to provide robust funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) including \$185 million in dedicated funding for the Division of Diabetes Translation (DDT) and \$35 million in funding for the National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP) at CDC.

The DAA is a coalition of twenty-four diverse member organizations, representing patient, professional and trade associations, other non-profit organizations, and corporations, all united in the desire to change the way diabetes is viewed and treated in America. Since 2010, the DAA has worked to increase awareness of, and action on, the diabetes epidemic among legislators and policymakers. The organizations that comprise the DAA share a common goal of elevating diabetes on the national agenda so we may ultimately defeat diabetes.

As you may know, over 34 million Americans have diabetes and an additional 88 million adults are at risk of developing the disease. In addition, the annual cost of this public health emergency has skyrocketed—diagnosed diabetes costs our country \$327 billion per year. This cost will continue to rise unless something is done. Both the human and economic toll of this disease is devastating.

The DDT, part of the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the CDC, provides funding to all 50 states to prevent and control diabetes. The DDT is integral in the fight against diabetes as it focuses on translating science into daily practice and reducing the preventable burden of diabetes through public health leadership, partnership, research, programs, and policies that translate science into practice. For this reason, we are urging you to provide \$185 million in funding to the DDT.

In addition, the DDT administers the National DPP – a public-private partnership that seeks to reduce the growing problem of prediabetes and type 2 diabetes in the United States. The National DPP is an evidence-based lifestyle intervention that helps combat the diabetes epidemic. The program evolved from a successful National Institutes of Health (NIH) clinical trial that found individuals with prediabetes – those at the highest risk for the disease – can reduce their risk for type 2 diabetes by 58 percent with lifestyle intervention and modest weight loss of five to seven percent. Seniors were even more successful, decreasing their risk by 71 percent. Further research translating the clinical trial from a one-on-one intervention with a clinician to a community, group-based setting showed the results could be replicated for an average cost of \$425-\$600 per participant. Approximately 1,700 organizations nationwide now offer CDC-recognized diabetes prevention lifestyle change programs, both in-person and virtually, to individuals at risk for type 2 diabetes. In addition, Medicare began covering CDC-recognized diabetes prevention programs on April 1, 2018.

Given the growth of the National DPP and the need for CDC support to implement Medicare coverage of diabetes prevention programs, robust funding for CDC, and dedicated funding for DDT, are more important than ever. Approximately 15-30 percent of people with prediabetes will develop type 2 diabetes within 5 years without intervention. Additional funding for National DPP is needed to expand the program to meet the needs of the 88 million Americans with prediabetes and to help change the trajectory of the disease. We urge you to provide \$185 million in dedicated funding for the DDT and to provide \$35 million for the National DPP in FY21. We look forward to working with you to support the valuable, evidence-based work of the DDT. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact one of the DAA's Co-chairs: Meredith Dyer at mdyer@endocrine.org, Karin Gillespie at kgil@novonordisk.com or Meghan Riley at mriley@diabetes.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Diabetes Association
American Medical Association
American Optometric Association
Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition
Endocrine Society
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Kidney Foundation
Novo Nordisk, Inc.
Omada Health
WW (Formerly Weight Watchers)
YMCA of the USA