

May 22, 2025

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Jayanta "Jay" Bhattacharya, M.D., Ph.D
Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Director Bhattacharya:

I am writing about the cancellation of the Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study (DPPOS). We appreciate Secretary Kennedy's commitment to restoring the DPPOS funding shared during the March 20 Senate L-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing. As you know, the funding is on hold and it's imperative that it is restored as soon as possible. This is a program of importance to our members and the patients they treat. If there is any information that you need or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Below is the original letter we sent to the Secretary and Dr. Memoli in March:

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, the world's largest professional organization of endocrinologists, I am writing to urge you to restore appropriated funding to the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) and DPP Outcomes Study that is funded through the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This research, [which is being conducted at 30 institutions in 21 states](#), impacts the over 100 million Americans living with diabetes or prediabetes, including over half of all Americans over the age of 65. Founded in 1916, the Endocrine Society represents approximately 18,000 physicians and scientists engaged in the treatment and research of endocrine disorders such as diabetes, hypertension, infertility, obesity, osteoporosis, endocrine tumors cancers (i.e., thyroid, adrenal, ovarian, pituitary), and thyroid disease.

On March 18, 2025, the Administration sent notice of the immediate termination of all DPP activities at NIH including the DPP Outcomes Study. This important study supports research on Alzheimer's disease and Alzheimer's disease-related dementias in prediabetes and type 2 diabetes. The funding also supports studies on the long-term effects of diabetes prevention on other health conditions, such as cancer, heart disease and stroke, nerve damage, kidney disease and eye disease. It has continued to follow many of the more than 3,100 surviving DPP participants since 2002. The DPP, which started in 1996, found that lifestyle changes or taking the medication Metformin could prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes in people at risk of developing the condition. The program, which has



received strong bipartisan support, successfully demonstrated that a 5-7 percent weight loss lowers the risk of developing diabetes by 58 percent.¹

The research funded by DPP provides an irreplaceable source of long-term information on diabetes prevention, which is one of the most significant chronic diseases in the United States. Preventing or delaying the onset of diabetes can help reduce the risk of other chronic conditions including stroke, heart and kidney disease, and premature death.

The elimination of this program directly contradicts your commitment to eliminating chronic disease and making American healthy. It is our understanding that this decision was intended to affect just one institution, Columbia University, however, this has also impacted 30 other institutions across the country that participate in the DPP Outcomes Study. Columbia is the administrator of the DPP Outcomes Study and it only receives 10% of the funding. The other institutions located in 21 states receive the bulk of this funding. Because DPP funding has been abruptly terminated, people across the country with type 2 diabetes and prediabetes, the cohort patient group, and the clinical employees and investigators are adversely affected.

The Endocrine Society urges you to restore funding to this important and congressionally approved chronic disease program before patients are put at risk and dedicated investigators and staff in 21 states have their positions terminated.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Rob Goldsmith, Director, Advocacy and Policy at the Endocrine Society at rgoldsmith@endocrine.org.

Sincerely,

Robert Lash, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Endocrine Society

CC: Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)

¹ <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/about-niddk/research-areas/diabetes/diabetes-prevention-program-dpp>