

December 14, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
419 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the 114 million Americans living with or at risk for diabetes, the American Diabetes Association and the Endocrine Society are grateful for your leadership and support of the Special Diabetes Program (SDP). The Special Statutory Program for Type 1 Diabetes Research (SDP-Type 1) expired on September 30<sup>th</sup> and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) was extended until December 31<sup>st</sup> as part of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization. We were encouraged that the House of Representatives included reauthorization of SDP through fiscal year (FY) 2019 in the new continuing resolution (CR), H.J. Res 124; however, we are concerned about extending SDP, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and other important health programs at the expense of the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF).

The PPHF helps prevent and detect costly and life-threatening diseases like diabetes—including providing 43% of funding for the Division of Diabetes Translation at CDC. PPHF funds go to all 50 states, DC, U.S. territories, and tribal organizations across the country, and cuts to it would damage the over 1,100 state and local public health organizations that use this funding to improve the health of our nation. Our organizations cannot support the \$6.35 billion cuts to the PPHF proposed in the CR. We ask the Senate to come to a bipartisan agreement on SDP reauthorization without making cuts to other indispensable prevention and public health programs.

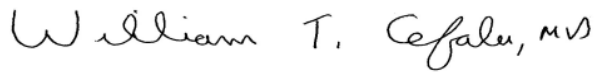
As you know, SDP-type 1 funds type 1 diabetes research at the National Institutes of Health, which has accelerated our understanding of how to improve outcomes for people with type 1 diabetes. This dedicated funding has yielded better treatments and tangible progress towards a cure for type 1 diabetes. 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. Unfortunately, funding for SDP-type 1 expired on September 30<sup>th</sup> and funding for SDPI will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> if Congress fails to act.

Critical research towards a cure for type 1 diabetes and programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives are in jeopardy the longer SDP renewal is delayed. **We urge you to work in a bipartisan way to advance SDP without damaging other programs on which people with diabetes rely.**

SDP has wide bipartisan support—in 2016, 356 House Members and 75 Senators signed letters endorsing the reauthorization of SDP. However, without an immediate, sustained investment by Congress for both components of SDP, promising research and prevention programs will be

compromised. Our organizations ask you to take immediate steps to provide a multi-year renewal of SDP without jeopardizing the essential work of the Prevention Fund. Thank you for your support for these programs as you work towards reauthorizing SDP and other critical public health programs.

Sincerely,



William T. Cefalu, MD  
Chief Scientific, Medical & Mission Officer  
American Diabetes Association



Barbara Byrd Keenan, FASAE, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer  
Endocrine Society

cc: Senator Orrin Hatch, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee; Senator Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee; Senator Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Senate HELP Committee; Senator Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Senate HELP Committee