

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 11, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi,

As leaders of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, we are writing to thank you for your strong and enduring support of the Special Diabetes Program (SDP) and urgently ask that you enable its reauthorization this month. SDP enjoys broad, bipartisan support, as evidenced by the enclosed letter voicing strong support for the program, signed by more than 350 members of Congress.

As you know, SDP is set to expire on September 30th. Without swift reauthorization, the promising research for a cure for type 1 diabetes, carried out by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), is at risk. Additionally, any delay in reauthorizing this program threatens important prevention and disease management programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives, the population with the highest prevalence of diabetes in our nation.

More than 30 million Americans have diabetes, and an additional 84 million have prediabetes. It is critical that we invest in the research that will lead us to a cure for type 1 diabetes and in the programs that help prevent and manage diabetes in the populations that are most impacted by the disease.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to working together to protect and extend the Special Diabetes Program.

Sincerely,



TOM REED
Co-Chair, Diabetes Caucus



DIANA DEGETTE
Co-Chair, Diabetes Caucus



SUSAN W. BROOKS
Vice Chair, Diabetes Caucus



SUZAN DELBENE
Vice Chair, Diabetes Caucus



LYNN JENKINS
Vice Chair, Diabetes Caucus



RAUL RUIZ
Vice Chair, Diabetes Caucus