

June 8, 2015

The Honorable Diana DeGette
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
United States House of Representatives
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives DeGette and Whitfield:

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, I would like to express our support for H.R. 2651, the Eliminating Disparities in Diabetes Prevention, Access and Care Act. Thank you for your continued efforts to address the needs of the millions of Americans with diabetes in the United States and for elevating the platform of minority disparities as they relate to this disease.

As you know, 29 million Americans have diabetes and 86 million have prediabetes making this an urgent issue for our nation's health. While 7.6 percent of non-Hispanic white adults are diagnosed, more than 15 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives have been diagnosed with diabetes and thirteen percent of all African Americans live with this disease. Addressing these disparities is essential in reversing the dramatically rising rates of diabetes in the United States.

The Eliminating Disparities in Diabetes Prevention, Access and Care Act (EDDPAC) will help to reduce minority health disparities in America by advancing research, treatment, and prevention efforts by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Institute of Medicine, and the Health Resources and Services Administration. These efforts are critical in addressing the unique challenges faced by those disproportionately impacted by diabetes.

The Endocrine Society supports H.R. 2651 and applauds your efforts to reduce diabetes disparities among minority communities. On behalf of our members and the people with diabetes they treat, thank you for your continued work in addressing this national epidemic.

Thank you,

Lisa Fish, MD
President, Endocrine Society