

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

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 steadfast commitment to the Special Diabetes Program (SDP) and for your commitment to reaching a bipartisan agreement to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and other important public health priorities. As you work to reauthorize CHIP, we urge you to include a long-term renewal of both components of SDP without the cuts to the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) currently included in the CHAMPION Act.

SDP has wide bipartisan support—in 2016 356 House Members and 75 Senators signed letters endorsing the reauthorization of both components of SDP. As you know, the Special Statutory Program for Type 1 Diabetes Research funds type 1 diabetes research at the National Institutes of Health and has accelerated our understanding of how to improve outcomes for people with type 1 diabetes. The Special Diabetes Program for Indians 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. Critical research towards a cure for type 1 diabetes and prevention and disease management programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives are currently in jeopardy due to the delay of a long-term SDP renewal.

These programs, which have a proven track record of success, are funded at \$150 million per program per year. Without an immediate, sustained investment by Congress for both components of the SDP, promising research and prevention programs will be compromised. Our organizations ask you to take immediate steps to provide a multi-year renewal of the SDP without endangering other public health programs, like those supported by the PPHF.

The PPHF provides an unprecedented investment in public health efforts, which helps prevent and detect costly and life-threatening diseases like diabetes. Because of the PPHF, Congress has been able to provide long overdue increases in funding for diabetes prevention to every state in recent years. The PPHF represents the best comprehensive effort to date to prevent disease and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans, including those with and at risk for diabetes. Additionally, funding efforts to prevent chronic diseases, like diabetes, and their complications is essential to reining in our nation's ballooning health care costs. Drastic cuts to the PPHF risk critical progress in preventing disease, promoting wellness, and containing healthcare costs. We cannot afford to halt these efforts.

Again, both components of SDP are of equal importance in the fight against the diabetes epidemic. Thank you for your support for these programs as you work towards a bipartisan agreement to extend CHIP without threatening 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