

March 2, 2015

The Honorable Susan Collins
U.S. Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
U.S. Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins and Senator Shaheen,

The undersigned organizations, representing physicians, allied health professionals, patients, community health organizations and industry, write to thank you for introducing S. 586, "The National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act," in the 114th Congress. As supporters of this legislation and its objectives, we look forward to working with you to achieve passage by the Senate as soon as possible.

With your leadership regarding this very important piece of legislation, our nation puts forth a serious response to the escalating diabetes epidemic and the chronic diseases that represent complications of the disease. We know from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2014 National Diabetes Statistics Report that the number of Americans with diabetes continues to grow unchecked. We also know that maintaining the status quo of care for the 86 million Americans with pre-diabetes is not an option.

S. 586 creates a commission for the purpose of improving the implementation and coordination of clinical care for patients with pre-diabetes, diabetes and the chronic diseases and conditions that result from diabetes, such as cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, blindness and neuropathy. The Commission, representing a partnership between private sector experts and specialists in the Federal agencies most active in clinical care, will provide the mechanism to address this epidemic which touches 1 out of every 9 Americans over the age of 20 and threatens to bankrupt our healthcare system.

As you know, similar legislation introduced in the 113th Congress (S. 539) had 24 bi-partisan co-sponsors and we are working hard to exceed this number in the 114th Congress and have this legislation enacted. We appreciate your leadership on this critical healthcare issue and thank you on behalf of patients with diabetes and pre-diabetes and the constituencies that our organizations represent.

Sincerely,

Abbott

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists
American Association of Diabetes Educators
American Association of Kidney Patients
American Clinical Laboratory Association
American College of Cardiology
American Diabetes Association
American Medical Association
American Optometric Association
American Podiatric Medical Association

American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
American Society of Bariatric Physicians
American Society of Nephrology
Bayer Corporation
Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists
Boehringer Ingelheim
Dexcom, Inc.
Diabetes Hands Foundation
diaTribe Foundation
Eli Lilly and Company
Endocrine Society
GlaxoSmithKline
Healthcare Leadership Council
Health Monitor Network
Johnson & Johnson
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Lexicon Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Medtronic
Merck
National Kidney Foundation
Novo Nordisk
Obesity Action Coalition
Omada Health, Inc.
Pediatric Endocrine Society
Renal Physicians Association
Results for Life
Roche Diagnostics Diabetes Care
The Obesity Society
Vivus, Inc.
VSP Vision Care
YMCA of the USA