

October 2, 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 undersigned organizations are grateful for your leadership and steadfast commitment to the Special Diabetes Program. As you work to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, we urge you and your colleagues to approve a long-term renewal of both components of SDP. Critical research towards a cure for type 1 diabetes and programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives are in jeopardy the longer a renewal is delayed. These programs have wide bipartisan support—in 2016 356 House Members and 75 Senators signed letters endorsing the reauthorization of both the Special Statutory Program for Type 1 Diabetes Research (SDP-type 1) and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI).

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. 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.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists  
American Diabetes Association  
JDRF  
National Indian Health Board  
The Endocrine Society