Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Office Building Address

Washington, D.C. 205\_\_\_

Dear **INSERT NAME OF SENATOR**,

As a constituent and someone who knows first-hand the tremendous burden diabetes places on my Tribal community, **I am writing to request your immediate support for swift passage of a five-year reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI). We urge you to work with congressional leadership to secure passage immediately.** Thanks to strong bipartisan support for SDPI, my community continues to receive the resources needed to keep us healthy and ensure our patients can access diabetes care. This is important because American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/ANs) adults are 2.3 times more likely to be living with diabetes compared to non-Hispanic whites. The death rate due to diabetes for AI/ANs is 1.6 times higher than the general U.S. population. Continued federal investment in SDPI is essential for saving lives and improving diabetes health care outcomes for America’s First Peoples.

Today, SDPI supports over 300 Indian Health Service, Tribal, and urban Indian programs in 35 states. It has also led to significant advances in diabetes education, prevention, and treatment. As a direct result of SDPI, incidence rates of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) among our People – the highest driver of Medicare costs – *were cut by 54% from 1996 to 2013*. During the same time period, rates of diabetic eye disease were cut in half. A landmark report released in 2019 by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation found that **decreases in ESRD incidence as a result of SDPI save up to $52 million per year in Medicare expenditures**.

Despite its incredible success, SDPI is only authorized through May 22. **Key members of Congress, including Chairman Pallone (D-NJ), Ranking Member Walden (R-OR), and Chairman Alexander (R-TN) have announced a bipartisan, bicameral agreement that would fund SDPI for five years**. This long term funding would give communities like mine the certainty we need to make long term decisions and plan effectively for diabetes prevention and treatment.

If Congress fails to pass 5-year renewal of SDPI, our People’s health will be placed in grave danger. Our communities will lose medical and public health providers. Our facilities will be forced to cut vital diabetes care services. Our youth and adult health education programs would close down. And most importantly, our People’s lives will be lost.

My (ENTER COMMUNITY NAME OR TRIBE) is thankful for continued congressional support for SDPI. We would be honored to show you the difference our SDPI program is making for Tribal communities in (ENTER CITY, STATE) who are dealing with the burdens of diabetes. We want to show you first-hand what we are accomplishing with SDPI dollars. Please contact (ENTER NAME OF GRANTEE) at (ENTER PHONE NUMBER) or (ENTER EMAIL) to arrange a visit to our program. I am happy to show you the tremendous return on federal investment demonstrated by SDPI. Your support for this program would be greatly appreciated by (ENTER TRIBE).

**We strongly request your support for swift passage of a five-year renewal of SDPI, and urge you to connect with your colleagues and congressional leadership to secure five-year renewal before SDPI expires on May 22.**

To learn more about diabetes in AI/AN communities and stories of how SDPI is saving lives please visit <http://nihb.org/sdpi>.

Sincerely,