

**Join Us in Recognizing the Special Diabetes Program: An Effective Program that is  
Advancing Research and Improving Lives**

March 6, 2012

Dear Colleague,

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, we are writing to ask that you join us in recognizing the Special Diabetes Program (SDP), which consists of the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. The SDP is demonstrating real returns on the federal investment and helping to create a brighter future for Americans burdened by diabetes.

Diabetes has a significant human and economic toll. In fact, it is the leading cause of kidney disease, blindness in working age adults, and non-traumatic amputations. Risk of heart attack or stroke is increased as well; 2 to 4 times for people with type 2 diabetes and 10 times for people with type 1 diabetes. These figures come at staggering cost: the United States spends \$174 billion on diabetes annually, with one in three Medicare dollars being spent on people with diabetes. Unfortunately, these numbers are expected to nearly triple in the next 25 years.

In spite of these troubling statistics, the SDP is yielding research advances that are helping to better treat, prevent, and lead us closer to a cure for type 1 diabetes. We encourage you to join us in recognizing the importance of the Special Diabetes Program by signing the attached letter. **To add your name or for further information, please contact Emily Katz with Representative DeGette ([emily.katz@mail.house.gov](mailto:emily.katz@mail.house.gov)) or Taylor Booth with Representative Whitfield ([taylor.booth@mail.house.gov](mailto:taylor.booth@mail.house.gov)).** The deadline to sign is March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress