



## **Bill Introduced to Reauthorize The Special Diabetes Programs for Indians (SDPI)**

Yesterday, House Bill, H.R. 3668, was introduced to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Programs for Indians (SDPI), which funding is set to expire after FY 2011. H.R. 3668 was sponsored by Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO), and co-sponsored by Congressmen Michael Castle (R-DE), Mark Kirk (R-IL), Zachery Space (D-OH), Tom Cole (R-OK), Dale Kildee (D-MI) and Xavier Becerra (D-CA).

Congress established the SDPI in 1997 with an initial funding of \$30 million for the prevention and treatment of diabetes in American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). AI/AN have the highest rates of type 2 diabetes in the United States. The SDPI supported programs have resulted in the mean blood sugar level (A1C) decreasing from 9.0% in 1996 to 7.85% in 2006, which translates to a 40% reduction in diabetes-related complications. With the success of the SDPI in addressing the continual diabetes crisis in Indian Country, Congress has increased funding to the current \$150 million per year thru FY 2011. **H.R. 3668 would reauthorize SDPI for additional five years and appropriate \$200 million per year, an increase of \$50 million.** For more information about the SDPI, please visit the Indian Health Service website:

<http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Diabetes/index.cfm?module=programsSDPI>.

### **How Can You Help?**

Please contact your Representatives and ask them to become a cosponsor of this important legislation.

**QUESTIONS:** Please contact NIHB's Legislative Director, Jennifer Cooper at (202) 507-4076.