

## **Improve Diabetes Care and Research: Sign the Diabetes Appropriations Letter**

Dear Colleague:

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus we ask that you join us in requesting level funding for federal diabetes programs in the fiscal year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

The United States is in the midst of a diabetes epidemic, with over 30 million Americans currently living with the disease. An additional 84 million are estimated to have prediabetes. It is critical that we invest in research, treatment and prevention programs to counter and reverse the burden of this disease.

To that end, the federal government should prioritize funding for the following diabetes programs:

- \$2.165 billion for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
- \$185 million for CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation (DDT)
- \$30 million for the National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP) at CDC

Please help us pave the way for a future free of diabetes. If you would like to sign this appropriations letter or have further questions, please contact Sahil Chaudhary ([Sahil.Chaudhary@mail.house.gov](mailto:Sahil.Chaudhary@mail.house.gov)) with Congresswoman DeGette's staff or Logan Hoover ([Logan.Hoover@mail.house.gov](mailto:Logan.Hoover@mail.house.gov)) with Congressman Reed's staff. The deadline for signatures is **5PM on March 25**.

Sincerely,

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Tom Reed  
Member of Congress

March XX, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you prepare the fiscal year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge you to make diabetes a national priority by providing level funding for diabetes programs at the Department of Health and Human Services.

The United States is currently experiencing a diabetes epidemic. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 30 million Americans are living with the diabetes and an additional 84 million have prediabetes, with 90 percent of these individuals being unaware of their condition. Furthermore, CDC data shows that diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States and can lead to other devastating health conditions, including cardiovascular disease, kidney damage, Alzheimer's disease, eye damage, and lower limb amputation. Diabetes is also the most expensive chronic disease. Approximately one in four health care dollars and one in three Medicare dollars are spent treating people with diabetes. In addition, the American Diabetes Association reports that diagnosed diabetes costs the nation's economy \$327 billion annually, a 26 percent increase between 2012 and 2017. Federal investments in prevention and treatment programs are fiscally responsible and offer hope to Americans affected by diabetes.

The CDC and National Institutes of Health (NIH) are leading the way by developing prevention programs and cutting-edge treatments. Although the United States has made tremendous progress in tackling this disease, there is still more work to be done.

We appreciate your consideration of the following funding levels in the FY 2020 appropriations bill:

- **\$2.165 billion for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).** NIDDK, the fifth largest institute at NIH, is the primary federal agency responsible for conducting research for the prevention and treatment of diabetes. NIDDK research has led to better treatments for those with diabetes, including continuous glucose monitoring technology and the first artificial pancreas system. Robust investment in NIDDK is needed to ensure that this important work continues, including efforts to find a cure.
- **\$185 million for CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation (DDT).** DDT leads efforts to prevent and manage diabetes through community-level prevention strategies, outcomes-based research and educational activities. Dedicated support for DDT is imperative as this funding will help expand innovative national and state-based prevention and education programs as well as research that focuses on the human and economic costs of diabetes.

- **\$30 million for the National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP) at CDC.** The National DPP is a public-private partnership composed of community groups, health care providers, faith-based organizations, private insurers, employers, and government agencies that aim to prevent diabetes in vulnerable communities. National DPP has successfully prevented or delayed the progression of type 2 diabetes by over 50 percent, according to a study published in the *Lancet*. Robust funding for the National DPP is needed to continue this cost-effective and highly successful diabetes prevention program.

Thank you for your past bipartisan support of diabetes-related programs. We urge you to continue that support into FY 2020. These investments are critical for Americans living with diabetes and those at risk of developing the disease.

Sincerely,

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Tom Reed  
Member of Congress