

If you could tell your member of Congress why diabetes research should be funded, what would you say?

“Thirteen years ago my husband died from the effects of diabetes. It was a horrible experience watching what he went through and attempting to be his “nurse.” He was diagnosed at age 35 when he had to have a physical before accepting a promotion. It was a few years later when the “effects” started. He lost part of a finger due to a vascular collapse, part of a toe due to infection, a foot due to infection and, of course, kidney failure. He did receive a kidney transplant but it only lasted six weeks and then he lost it. We waited another 2 years and never got another call. Meanwhile, the other systems started failing ending in his death.”

-Marsha, Rockford, IL

“If I were writing my Congressman/Senator about why diabetes research needs to be funded, I would submit to him/her that there is no greater health threat to all their constituency than diabetes. So I would tell my members of Congress to look no further than across the aisle and across their constituency to see the reasons for funding diabetes and other national health issues!”

-Steve, Blaine, MN

“I would tell my Congress member that research for diabetes should be funded because there is no cure for this. We are constantly dependent on insulin, with the insulin pump, shots, or even the pill, we cannot live to our fullest dreams. Some of us would like to be able to join the air force, the fire department, or the police department, but with diabetes we are limited to that because of the blood sugars and if we were to go low or to high in the middle of a run or fighting out at war, we are not able to stop and make sure we okay and therefore might die from a coma or a seizure. So therefore a lot of our dreams are now limited, and we cannot fulfill them any longer. If we are to find a cure for diabetes then these dreams could actually one day come to life for one of us or many of us.”

-Susan, Auburn, CA

“Diabetes can be deadly. It can maim and kill. It can make every other physical condition worse. However, people with diabetes can lead very normal and productive lives. But to be able to do this, prevention and education are imperative.”

-Beverly, Louisville, KY

“I would like our Congress members to realize the intense, daily, unending care that diabetes type 2 brings to the people who are diagnosed with this condition, often with no forewarning.”

-Margaret, Johnstown, PA

“Our economy needs all the strong small businesses it can keep running. But diabetes put an end to my small business, because I suffered from its symptoms of fatigue, exhaustion and a reduced capability to make the multiple everyday decisions needed to run a business. Diabetes research doesn't just improve the lives of individuals with diabetes. It lifts all of our lives, in small and large businesses, and helps our country's economy function better, too. Fund diabetes research - save American lives and jobs.”

-Diane, Worcester, MA