

## News Release

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Texas State Senator Robert Duncan Receives American Diabetes Association's Distinguished Achievement Award**

*Legislator Presented with the Public Policy Leadership Award for efforts to pass legislation to further mission of ADA*

**Alexandria, VA (November 20, 2006)** – The American Diabetes Association (ADA), the nation's leading voluntary health organization in the fight against diabetes, announced today that Texas State Senator Robert Duncan, of Lubbock Texas, received the Association's prestigious Public Policy Leadership Award at the organization's Community Volunteer Leadership Conference and Annual Meeting on November 18, in Dallas, Texas.

The Public Policy Leadership Award is presented to an individual who has made a significant impact through public policy to improve the lives of people with diabetes and further the goals of the ADA. Duncan has been a leader in the Texas State Senate on diabetes care and prevention issues, passing legislation to expand access to diabetes health coverage and to improve the care for students who have diabetes. Duncan has a personal connection to diabetes, as his father and sister were both diagnosed with the disease.

“On behalf of the American Diabetes Association, we are delighted to present this prestigious award to Senator Duncan,” commented Larry Deeb, MD, President, Medicine & Science, American Diabetes Association. “His contributions to the diabetes community and dedication to diabetes prevention and care directly support ADA's mission to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people living with diabetes.”

Senator Duncan was instrumental in the passage of the Texas Diabetes School Care Act, which became law in the summer of 2005. Duncan was the Senate sponsor of the landmark legislation, which requires school personnel to be trained in diabetes care and allows students with diabetes to self manage their disease on school property. The bill also requires that a diabetes management and treatment plan be developed by a student's health care team.

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**National Office**

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**Diabetes Information**

call 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383)  
online [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org)  
The Association gratefully accepts gifts through your will.

**The Mission** of the American

Diabetes Association is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

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Previously, Duncan co-authored the Diabetes Cost Reduction Act, which passed in 1997 and guarantees that private insurance plans include coverage of diabetes medications, supplies and education. He also led efforts to defeat two proposed rollbacks of the legislation. In 1999, he secured funding to create the Diabetes Research Center at Texas Tech University in El Paso.

Diabetes is a serious disease that affects the body's ability to produce or respond properly to insulin, a hormone that allows blood sugar to enter the cells of the body and be used for energy. Nearly 21 million children and adults have diabetes. At least 54 million have pre-diabetes. Diabetes is the fifth leading cause of death by disease in the United States and it has no cure.

The American Diabetes Association is the nation's premier voluntary health organization supporting diabetes research, information and advocacy. The Association's mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes. Founded in 1940, the Association provides services to hundreds of communities across the country. For more information please call the American Diabetes Association at 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383) or visit [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org). Information from both these sources is available in English and Spanish.

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