

News Release

For immediate release

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American Diabetes Association Strongly Supports Recently-Introduced Gestational Diabetes Act

ADA lauds Sens. Clinton and Collins for introducing legislation to reduce the incidence of gestational diabetes

Alexandria, VA (September 20, 2006) – The American Diabetes Association (ADA) endorsed the Gestational Diabetes (GEDI) Act, which was introduced in the U.S. Senate today by Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Susan Collins. The bill aims to lower the incidence of gestational diabetes and prevent women afflicted with this condition and their children from developing type 2 diabetes. Gestational diabetes develops in 4-8 percent of all pregnancies and affects about 135,000 women in the United States each year. Women who have had gestational diabetes or have given birth to a baby weighing more than 9 pounds are at a dramatically increased risk for developing type 2 diabetes later in life. Gestational diabetes is also associated with more health problems for both the mother and child during pregnancy and childbirth. The Gestational Diabetes Act will allow for better data collection in local communities and will expand the resources available to fight the disease.

“Diabetes has become a health epidemic that the federal government can no longer ignore,” said Lawrence T. Smith, Chair of the American Diabetes Association. “That is why it is vital to have approaches – like this one to address the growing incidence of gestational diabetes – that increase the government’s role in raising awareness and intensifying prevention efforts. We applaud Senators Clinton and Collins for their leadership on this legislation and urge the Senate to pass it quickly.”

The GEDI Act will set up a national grant program, which will enable communities to determine the most efficient and customized approaches to prevent, diagnose and treat gestational diabetes on the local level. Additionally, grants can be used by state-based diabetes prevention and control programs to collect and analyze surveillance data on women with and at risk for gestational diabetes, among other purposes. These components are crucial to stemming the tide of gestational diabetes in America, and lowering the overall incidence of diabetes in the United States.

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National Office

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Diabetes Information

call 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383)
online 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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Diabetes is one of the nation's most prevalent, debilitating and costly diseases. Nearly 21 million American children and adults have diabetes, up from 18 million when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last measured diabetes prevalence in 2003. If present trends continue, one in three Americans, and one in two minorities, born in 2000 will develop diabetes in their lifetime. The cost of diabetes in the U.S. in 2002 was at least \$132 billion.

The American Diabetes Association is the nation's leading voluntary health organization supporting diabetes research, information and advocacy. The Association's advocacy efforts include helping to combat discrimination against people with diabetes; advocating for the increase of federal diabetes research and programs; and improved access to, and quality of, healthcare for people with diabetes. 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 service 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. Information from both these sources is available in English and Spanish.

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