

April 9, 2007

Dear Senator:

With unprecedented bipartisan support, the U.S. Senate passed H.R. 810 – The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act – on July 18, 2006. We are pleased to hear that this important bill is expected to come before the Senate again this week, reintroduced earlier this session as S. 5.

We write to urge you to pass this legislation that offers great hope to millions of Americans. As you know, diabetes is a serious, life-threatening, chronic illness for which there is no cure. Approximately 20.8 million American children and adults are living with the disease, and that number is growing by an estimated 8% per year. Current estimates indicate that one in three Americans – and one in two minorities - born in the United States after 2000 will develop diabetes in their lifetimes if present trends continue. In fact, every 21 seconds another American is diagnosed with diabetes.

The Association believes all forms of stem cell research should move forward within a strong ethical framework. Important advances have already been made through embryonic stem cell research, including an understanding of how this research could benefit diabetes. By expanding the number of stem cell lines that are eligible for federally funded research while also implementing strong ethical guidelines to improve federal oversight, S. 5 not only provides hope of a cure to patients with type 1 diabetes but improved treatment options for all people with diabetes.

**A vote for S. 5, and this bill alone, will provide for the most promising stem cell research and truly help move ahead to end the suffering of patients and their families.**

We look forward to working with you in the lead up to this important debate. If the American Diabetes Association can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Abby Bownas, Manager of Federal Government Affairs at (703) 253-4375 or [abownas@diabetes.org](mailto:abownas@diabetes.org).

Sincerely,



Darlene L. Cain  
Chair of the Board

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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.