

News Release

Statement of the American Diabetes Association Expressing Disappointment by the President's Veto of Stem Cell Research Legislation

For immediate release

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Alexandria, VA (July 19, 2006) – Lawrence T. Smith, Chair of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and the parent of a daughter who has type 1 diabetes, and Dana Lewis, a teen from Huntsville, Alabama who has type 1 diabetes and is the ADA's National Youth Advocate today issued the following statements in response to today's veto by President Bush of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (H.R. 810). Earlier today, Lewis presented a petition, signed by approximately 11,000 Americans affected by diabetes, urging the President to sign the bill. The ADA has been a strong supporter of the bill, which would accelerate medical advancements by easing existing restrictions and supporting research that uses embryonic stem cells, while maintaining strict ethical guidelines.

Said Smith: "This is a devastating setback for the 20.8 million American children and adults with diabetes – and those who love and care for them. We truly believe that embryonic stem cell research offers the greatest promise for a cure for diabetes. Despite bipartisan support in Congress, the backing of 70 percent of the American public, and the hopes and prayers of millions of individuals with diabetes and other debilitating diseases, the President has chosen the wrong path."

Said Lewis: "I had hoped that the President would have really tried to listen to our voices. I feel let down and I am very saddened that he shattered my sense of hope and the hope of millions of other children and young adults. I still believe this bill is right for this country, and I will still fight in the future to see it become law."

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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Diabetes Information

call 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383)
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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.