

News Release

For immediate release

Contact: Zach Goldberg
(703) 549-1500, ext. 2622
zgoldberg@diabetes.org

On World Diabetes Day, American Diabetes Association Advocates for Greater Health Care Access and Affordability

Many of the 230 million individuals with diabetes worldwide, including nearly 21 million Americans with diabetes, fail to receive care they need

Alexandria, VA (November 13, 2006) – The American Diabetes Association (ADA) will join the worldwide global diabetes community on World Diabetes Day, November 14, to raise awareness of the growing diabetes epidemic and the urgent need to ensure that all individuals with diabetes have access to health care that is affordable and enables them to manage the disease.

Currently, the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) estimates that 230 million people worldwide have diabetes. In the United States, 20.8 million Americans have diabetes and 54 million have pre-diabetes. If current trends continue, one in three Americans – and one in two minorities – born in 2000 will develop diabetes in their lifetime. However, in both developed and developing countries – including the United States – many individuals with diabetes don't have access to the medications, supplies and training necessary to managing diabetes and preventing its serious and fatal complications. ADA continues to advocate at the local, state and federal levels for policies that improve diabetes health coverage to ensure that every person with diabetes – or at risk of diabetes – has the best quality of education and care possible.

“Diabetes has become the great public health crisis of the next quarter century. On World Diabetes Day, we call upon world leaders to address the fact that far too many individuals with diabetes, including some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, aren't getting the care they need,” said Larry Deeb, MD, President, Medicine & Science, American Diabetes Association. “If we don't address this issue today, we will be setting our health care system up for failure in the not-so-distant future.”

--more--

National Office

1701 North Beauregard Street
Alexandria, VA 22311
Tel: 703-549-1500

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.

News Release

American Diabetes Association/World Diabetes Day, Page 2

In the United States, ADA has urged Congress and State Legislatures to protect and expand diabetes health coverage. Americans rely on private health coverage as well as government-funded programs such as Medicare and Medicaid to access diabetes medications, supplies and training. ADA has fought efforts to limit the coverage Americans with diabetes have had guaranteed to them in the past. Additionally, ADA supports greatly increased federal funding for diabetes education, prevention and care programs run at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

World Diabetes Day, celebrated every year on November 14, was established by the IDF and World Health Organization in 1991 with the aim of coordinating diabetes advocacy worldwide. It coincides with American Diabetes Month in November. ADA is supporting a United Nations (UN) Resolution on diabetes that asks for a UN-observed World Diabetes Day and also encourages UN Member States to develop national policies for the treatment care and prevention of diabetes within the sustainable development of their health care systems. ADA's 2005-2006 National Youth Advocate, Dana Lewis 18, will serve as one of 25 Youth Ambassadors from around the world urging support for the Resolution at the World Diabetes Congress in Cape Town, South Africa on December 3-7, 2006.

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.

###

National Office

1701 North Beauregard Street
Alexandria, VA 22311
Tel: 703-549-1500

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.