

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education  
2448 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and Education  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As you begin the appropriations process for Fiscal Year (FY)2015, the undersigned Members of Congress ask that you give strong consideration to the burden of diabetes in the United States and provide \$20 million for the National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). While the prevalence of diabetes is growing, we have the potential to prevent many new cases of the disease. In preventing diabetes we can also avert the rising health care costs that stem from diabetes and its complications.

As you know, nearly 26 million Americans have diabetes. Another 79 million have prediabetes, putting them at increased risk for developing type 2 diabetes. Diabetes costs the nation an estimated \$245 billion annually, a 41 percent increase in just five years. This growing diabetes epidemic is a serious threat to both the health and fiscal stability of our nation.

Though the statistics are alarming, we do have tools available to prevent new cases of diabetes. The Diabetes Prevention Program, a groundbreaking clinical trial carried out by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, showed that type 2 diabetes is largely preventable. The clinical trial found that with lifestyle change and moderate weight loss, individuals with prediabetes can reduce their risk for type 2 diabetes by 58 percent (71 percent in people over age 60). Further research has demonstrated that these results can be replicated in a community setting for a cost of close to \$400 per participant, a cost significantly lower than that of the original clinical trial.

Authorized in 2010, the NDPP is based on the successful outcomes of the clinical trial and translational research that followed. The goal of the NDPP is to prevent type 2 diabetes in the 79 million Americans with prediabetes by building a national network of community programs to offer support and guidance to those at risk. Most recently, we are pleased that the NDPP received \$10 million in FY 2014 funding. We need to build on this initial funding in order to achieve a return on investment in the form of decreased health care costs.

Currently, the YMCA, in coordination with the CDC and private insurers, delivers the diabetes prevention program to individuals with prediabetes, helping them to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles, and their work has proven successful. Operating in over 794 sites in 39 states, these evidence-based programs have been shown to significantly reduce the risk of developing diabetes.

A strong federal investment in the NDPP will expand on these current successes and strengthen the infrastructure of the NDPP being offered by the YMCA as well as other community organizations. This will result in improved health for millions of Americans and also yield a significant cost savings. In a 2009 report, the Urban Institute predicted the country could save as much as \$190 billion over 10 years by bringing this community-based diabetes prevention program to scale fully across the nation. Additionally a new CBO-style analysis by Avalere Health estimates \$1.3 billion in federal savings over a decade just by providing the NDPP as a benefit in Medicare.

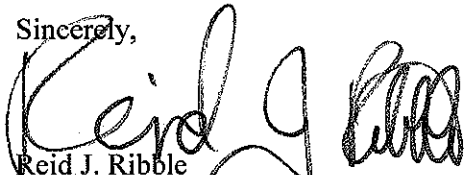
In addition to the potential cost savings, funding for the NDPP is truly an investment rather than a long-standing financial commitment. It is estimated that sites will be self-sustaining within three years. An upfront investment will kick start a permanent system of evidence-based prevention programs that pay for themselves.

Once again, diabetes is a serious and costly disease. According to the CDC, one in three adults will have diabetes by the year 2050. As the rates of diabetes grow, and more individuals are subject to dangerous complications – such as heart disease, stroke, lower-limb amputation, blindness and kidney disease – healthcare costs will also continue to rise. In order to bend the cost curve of the diabetes epidemic, we must make the National DPP available to the individuals who are at the highest risk.

The NDPP meets the dual goals of improving the overall health of our nation and reducing long-term healthcare spending. Taking advantage of this extraordinary opportunity will help stop the devastating and costly toll diabetes is taking on the health and financial security of our nation. We respectfully request that you provide \$20 million in FY 2015 funding for the NDPP.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this important matter. Please contact Kyle Roskam (5-5665) with Representative Reid Ribble or Matt Weiner (5-2040) with Representative Susan Davis if you need further information.

Sincerely,



Reid J. Ribble  
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress

Chris Buxton

Ron Barber

Lois Scarle

Paul Blumson

Jay Mihay

Jim M. J.

~~Paul J. J.~~

Zea J. J.

Raid M. Hijab

Steve Loebach

Carol Shea-Power

Daniel Lipinski

Tony Cardenas

Y. K. K. P. P.

Arnold E. Cannolly

Josetta Sanchez

Sam Carr

Herb Hett

Chill R.

Steuw Harful

Matthew A. Chrest

Muri L. James

~~Steuw Harful~~

Michael H. Michael

Deed J. J.

Katherine M. Clark

~~Don J.~~

David N. Ciulline

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

Kathy Carter

Jacqui Carter

W. J.

Bruce Schell

Pat King

John  
F. Veb

Suzanne Bonanni

Elizabeth H. Esty

Aed Deutch

Artin

Ann McFane Foster

Daniel Meek

Fredrica S. Wilser

Dave Scott

William R. Keety

Dr. Kildee

Ad Lewis

H. Vog

Demmy Heek

Tulsi Gabbard

Michael A. Grimm

Julia Bravley

~~William L. Tolson~~

Alfred S. Jones

Philip Jackson

John F. Tracy

Kenneth Ellisen

Jim Moran

Alan Smith

Pez Sassi

De Young

Carolyn McCarty

Charles B. Rangel

Alvin Smith

Steve Cohen

Vicki Bauer

Danny de Jesus

Peter DeFazio

Zwens Moore

Madeline Waters

Rubin Hinojosa

Bruce Braly

John Rahall

Marcia L. Judge

Lyette D. Clarke

Walter H. Hartsig

James H. Hartsig

Oron Kind

Corrine Brown

Mr. H. W.

Bill Pasarell of

Neil J. Patti

C.A. Peter R. P.

John Moyers.

Donis O. Matsui

Jin Sack

Tom Peters



Elijah E. Tamminga

George S. S.

Dana A. A.

John W. W.

Linda J. S.

Mark M. M.

Madeline G. B.

Ben A. L.

Eddie Bernice Johnson

