



dedicated to finding a cure

July 25, 2007

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman
House Energy & Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell and Chairman Rangel:

I write on behalf of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to express support for The Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007. This bill extends critical health care coverage to children and also includes an extension of the Special Statutory Funding Program for Type 1 Diabetes Research (Special Diabetes Program).

As you are well aware, the economic and personal toll of diabetes continues to grow. Diabetes currently accounts for more than one-third of all Medicare dollars, and people with diabetes face a future filled with the possibility of developing serious complications such as stroke, kidney failure, blindness and amputations. Over the past decade, the Special Diabetes Program has led to significant advances and has accelerated our path to new treatments and a cure.

Thank you for your efforts and for recognizing the importance and effectiveness of this critical program. We look forward to working with you as the legislative process continues to ensure that the Special Diabetes Program receives a multi-year reauthorization with an increased funding stream so that we can fully take advantage of this important investment.

Once more, thank you for your leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence A. Soler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lawrence A. Soler
Vice President, Government Relations