

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 26, 2012

Dear Colleague:

We thought you may be interested in the attached Congressional Research Service (CRS) recently released report on the *Federal Activities and Spending for Diabetes Prevention, Research, and Treatment*. The report was requested by us, Congressional Diabetes Caucus Chairs, Reps. Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Ed Whitfield (R-KY), to better understand the federal government's involvement in - and funding of - diabetes mellitus research, surveillance, prevention and education, and treatment.

The purpose for the Congressional Diabetes Caucus request for a CRS report was to secure a comprehensive review and detailed background information on:

- The history of the federal government's involvement in diabetes activities;
- The mechanisms for coordination of diabetes activities throughout the federal government;
- Diabetes-related spending at the Department of Health and Human Services and agencies that participate in the Diabetes Mellitus Interagency Coordination Committee;
- Specific diabetes-related spending in minority health programs; and
- Appropriations related issues for diabetes-related activities.

In the United States, there are currently nearly 26 million people (8.3% of the population) with diabetes, 79 million people have pre-diabetes, and 7 million people with diabetes remain undiagnosed. Diabetes is the leading cause of both kidney failure and new cases of blindness among adults aged 20-74 years, as well as a significant cause of heart disease and stroke.

The average medical expenditures among people with diagnosed diabetes are 2.3 times higher than what expenditures would be in the absence of diabetes. The total annual cost of diabetes and its complications, including undiagnosed diabetes, prediabetes, and gestational diabetes, was estimated at \$218 billion in 2007.

We hope you find the attached report valuable in familiarizing yourself with federal investment in diabetes activities. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss ideas for how to improve prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of diabetes in the United States, please reach out to our staff (emily.katz@mail.house.gov with Representative DeGette or taylor.booth@mail.house.gov with Representative Whitfield).

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette
Co-Chair, Congressional Diabetes Caucus



Ed Whitfield
Co-Chair, Congressional Diabetes Caucus