

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As you prepare the fiscal year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge you to prioritize funding for diabetes programs within the Department of Health and Human Services.

The United States is facing a diabetes epidemic. More than 30 million Americans—almost 10 percent of the population—have diabetes. An additional 84 million more have prediabetes, and nine out of ten of those with prediabetes are not yet aware that they are at risk.

The burden of this disease is significant. If present trends continue, one in three adults—up to two in three among certain minority populations—will have diabetes in 2050. The annual cost of diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes, including type 1 and type 2, gestational diabetes, and prediabetes has skyrocketed to \$327 billion. This is unacceptable and unsustainable.

Federal diabetes-related programs are changing the lives of those with the disease. Prevention programs at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are helping to lower the incidence of the disease, and promising research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) may one day yield a cure. The progress that has been made is remarkable, but more needs to be done.

We appreciate your prioritization of the following programs in the FY 2019 appropriations bill, which will help ensure that critical projects already underway can be enhanced and expanded, and will help to turn the tide of this national epidemic:

- **National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).** NIDDK is the fifth largest institute housed at the NIH, and it is the primary government agency responsible for conducting research to find a cure and advance diabetes treatments. Investment in NIDDK is needed to support work across the country to discover groundbreaking treatments and ultimately a cure
- **CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation (DDT).** DDT leads efforts to prevent diabetes and its difficult complications by developing and implementing state and community-level prevention strategies, outcomes-based research, and educational activities. Support for DDT is needed to

expand innovative national and state-based prevention and education programs and research studies to reign in the human and economic costs of the diabetes epidemic.

- **National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP) at CDC.** The National DPP is a public-private partnership of community, health care, and faith-based organizations, private insurers, employers, and government agencies aimed at preventing diabetes in Americans at risk of the disease, including half of all Americans aged 65 and older. Funding for the National DPP is needed to expand this cost-effective, highly successful diabetes prevention program.

Thank you for your past bipartisan support of diabetes-related programs. We urge you to continue that support in FY 2019. These investments are necessary to transform the lives of those living with, and at risk for, diabetes.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



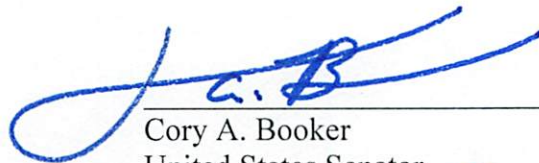
Roger F. Wicker  
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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



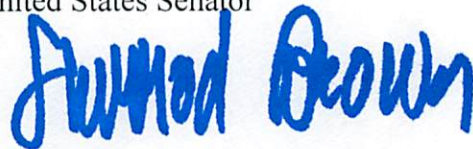
James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



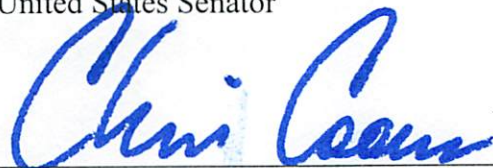
Deb Fischer  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

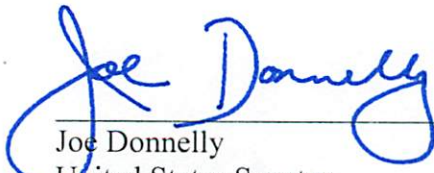


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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

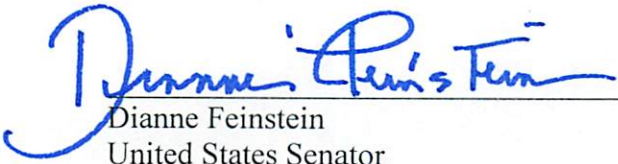




Joe Donnelly  
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Tammy Duckworth  
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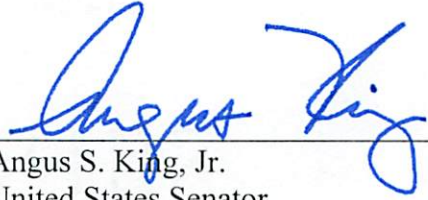
Dianne Feinstein  
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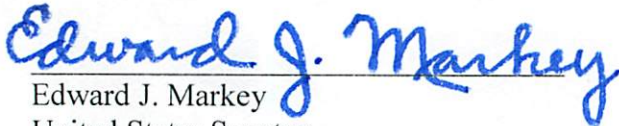
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



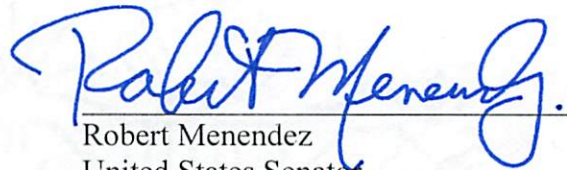
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



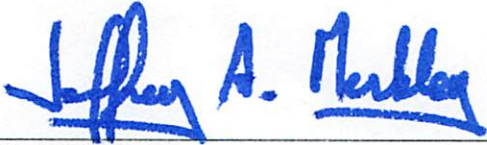
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



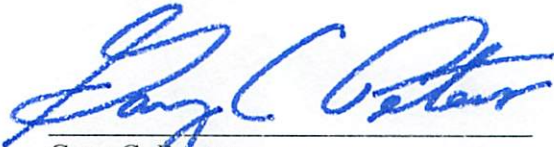
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



Bill Nelson  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



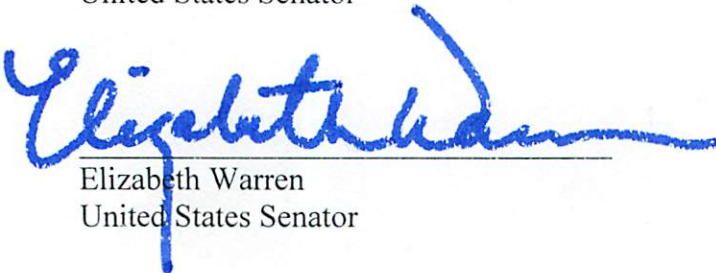
Jack Reed  
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Brian Schatz  
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Chris Van Hollen  
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Elizabeth Warren  
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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator