

November 13, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate HELP Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate HELP Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Reid, McConnell, Harkin and Alexander,

The undersigned organizations, representing physicians, allied health professionals, patients, community health organizations and industry, write to urge the Senate to enact the National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act (S. 539) before the end of this year.

As you know, S. 539 creates a commission representing a partnership between private sector diabetes experts and diabetes specialists in the federal agencies most active in diabetes care to better coordinate and streamline federal diabetes activities and recommend new approaches to improve patient care. The bill requires no new money because the legislation specifies that the commission meetings will be supported through existing HHS funds.

Our nation needs a serious response to the escalating diabetes epidemic. We know from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2014 National Diabetes Statistics Report that the number of Americans with diabetes continues to grow. We also know that maintaining the status quo of care for the 86 million Americans with prediabetes is not an option.

S. 539, legislation with 21 co-sponsors reflecting bi-partisan support, provides Congress the opportunity to do something this year about the diabetes epidemic with the potential to improve the health of millions of Americans.

Passage of this bill would be an important legislative accomplishment on behalf of patients with diabetes and prediabetes and for the entire diabetes community. Passing this bill, now, will demonstrate how our government can make a difference for people with diabetes and how both parties in Congress are able to work together to achieve real improvements in patient care.

We urge you to enact the National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act (S. 539).

Sincerely,

Abbott  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Ophthalmology

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists  
American Association of Diabetes Educators  
American Association of Kidney Patients  
American Clinical Laboratory Association  
American College of Cardiology  
American Diabetes Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Medical Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgeons  
American Society of Bariatric Physicians  
American Society of Nephrology  
Amgen  
Bayer Corporation  
Boehringer Ingelheim  
Dexcom, Inc.  
diaTribe Foundation  
Eli Lilly and Company  
Endocrine Society  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Health Monitor Network  
Johnson & Johnson  
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation  
Lexicon Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
Medtronic  
Merck  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores  
National Community Pharmacists Association  
National Kidney Foundation  
Novo Nordisk  
Obesity Action Coalition  
Pediatric Endocrine Society  
Renal Physicians Association  
Results for Life  
Roche Diagnostics  
VIVUS, Inc.  
VSP Vision Care  
YMCA of the USA