

November 15, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Alexander, Murray, Collins and Shaheen,

The undersigned organizations, representing physicians, allied health professionals, patients, community health organizations and industry, urge the HELP Committee to act expeditiously on House-passed H.R. 1192, the National Clinical Care Commission Act, the amended companion bill to S. 586, so it can move to the floor for final passage this year.

We are very hopeful that the Committee's quick action will allow for enactment of H.R. 1192 this year and help the nation pivot from continuing the status quo to instead undertaking more proactive and innovative approaches to metabolic, autoimmune and insulin resistant diseases, which include the escalating diabetes epidemic and the chronic disease complications of diabetes. The United States spends \$322 billion annually controlling the high blood glucose levels that characterize diabetes or the cardiac, nerve, kidney and newly recognized cancer-related complications of the disease. At this level of investment, the nation cannot afford to be complacent and accept inefficiencies and inconsistent policies as part of the federal response to a disease that continues to grow unchecked.

As you know, H.R. 1192 creates a commission which would include leaders of the federal government as well as several private sector experts in diabetes and its disease complications. The commission would review the myriad of ways the government currently spends money on activities related to the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes and other metabolic, autoimmune and insulin resistant diseases, and make recommendations on how these funds could be utilized more effectively.

Through innovation, collaboration, and application of advances in care called for in this important legislation, H.R. 1192 provides the opportunity to begin to reduce the staggering impact of diabetes on health care spending and the other diseases the commission will address, while simultaneously improving care for the tens of millions of Americans living with these diseases.

When H.R. 1192 passed the House, there were 229 co-sponsors of the bill. We are gratified by the broad bipartisan support for this initiative in the House and for the 33 co-sponsors of the Senate companion bill S. 586. Passage of this legislation would be a victory for patients impacted by these diseases and the millions of people who dedicate their lives to serving them. We strongly urge you to move H.R. 1192 through Committee so it can be passed this year.

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 Medical Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Pharmacists Association  
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery  
American Society of Endocrine Physician Assistants  
American Society of Nephrology  
AstraZeneca  
BD  
Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists  
Boehringer Ingelheim  
Children with Diabetes  
Corcept Therapeutics, Inc.  
Dexcom, Inc.  
Diabetes Hands Foundation  
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition  
diaTribe Foundation  
Eli Lilly and Company  
Endocrine Society  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Health Monitor Network  
Insulet Corporation  
Johnson & Johnson  
JDRF  
Medtronic  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores  
National Kidney Foundation  
Novo Nordisk, Inc.  
Obesity Action Coalition  
Obesity Medicine Association  
Omada Health, Inc.  
Pediatric Endocrine Society  
Renal Physicians Association  
Roche Diabetes Care, Inc.  
Sanofi  
The Obesity Society  
Vivus, Inc.  
Weight Watchers International  
YMCA of the USA