

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