



March 23, 2017

The Honorable Tom Price  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Price:

The Diabetes Advocacy Alliance (DAA) is writing to welcome you as our new Secretary of Health and Human Services and to share a brief overview of our coalition's mission as well as our priorities for the coming year. The DAA is a coalition of 22 diverse member organizations, representing patient, professional and trade associations, other non-profit organizations, and corporations, all united in the desire to change the way diabetes is viewed and treated in America. Since 2010, the DAA has worked to increase awareness of, and action on, the diabetes epidemic among legislators and policymakers. The organizations that comprise the DAA share a common goal of elevating diabetes on the national agenda so we may ultimately defeat diabetes.

As a physician, you know both the human and economic toll of diabetes is devastating. Nearly 30 million Americans have diabetes and an additional 86 million adults are at risk of developing the disease. By 2050, it is estimated that one out of every three Americans will have diabetes. In addition, the annual cost of this public health emergency has skyrocketed to \$322 billion and will continue to rise unless something is done. Further, the Medicare program and older adults are disproportionately affected by diabetes. Approximately 11.2 million Americans over the age of 65 (nearly 30 percent) have diagnosed diabetes and half of all those over the age of 65 have prediabetes. Medicare currently spends one out of every three dollars on care for people with diabetes.<sup>1</sup>

The DAA's 2017 regulatory and legislative priorities are focused in three areas:

- Prevention of type 2 diabetes;
- Improved screening and detection of prediabetes, type 2 diabetes, and gestational diabetes; and
- Improved care for people with diagnosed diabetes.

During your time as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, the DAA and individual DAA members have had numerous opportunities to work with you and your staff on critically important health issues and we look forward to working closely with you in your new role as Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the lives of people with diabetes and those at risk. Attached please find the DAA's 2017 Policy Priorities which provide greater detail on our areas of focus.

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Medicare Health Support Overview. Baltimore, MD: CMS. Available at: [http://www.cms.gov/ccip\\_downloads/overview\\_ketchum\\_70116.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/ccip_downloads/overview_ketchum_70116.pdf)

If you have any questions or need additional information, please free to contact one of the DAA Co-chairs: Meghan Riley at [mriley@diabetes.org](mailto:mriley@diabetes.org); Karin Gillespie at [kgil@novonordisk.com](mailto:kgil@novonordisk.com); or Dr. Henry Rodriguez at [hrodrig1@health.usf.edu](mailto:hrodrig1@health.usf.edu).

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists  
American Association of Diabetes Educators  
American Diabetes Association  
American Medical Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
Diabetes Hands Foundation  
Endocrine Society  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores  
National Council on Aging  
National Kidney Foundation  
Novo Nordisk, Inc.  
Omada Health  
Pediatric Endocrine Society  
Weight Watchers International, Inc.  
YMCA of the USA