

_____, 1999

Member of Congress
c/o The JDF Children's Congress
1320 Old Chain Bridge Rd., Suite 330
McLean, VA 22101

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the 16 million Americans who suffer from diabetes, I am writing to ask your support in finding a cure for diabetes. The first-ever JDF Children's Congress is taking place in Washington, D.C., June 20–22! Please show your support for diabetes research by attending the related events.

Diabetes is a devastating illness that affects people of every age, race, and nationality. Although many people with diabetes are able to survive with multiple daily injections of insulin, it is not a cure for this dreaded disease. Despite the availability of insulin, diabetes continues to be the leading cause of kidney failure, adult blindness, nerve damage, and nontraumatic amputations. Nearly 190,000 deaths occur each year due to diabetes.

I support the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation's (JDF) efforts to find a cure. JDF will contribute approximately \$55 million to diabetes research in 1999–2000. This is more than any other nonprofit, nongovernmental funder. The federal government, however, is able to contribute infinitely more. For this reason, we ask that you support a 15% increase in funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), providing the second step toward doubling the NIH budget over five years, as proposed by members of Congress from both parties.

We further ask that you support an \$827 million investment for diabetes research at NIH in fiscal year 2000. This is based on the specific research recommendations set forth by the Congressionally mandated Diabetes Research Working Group (DRWG) in its report released in February.

Thank you for your support. Together we will find a cure!

Sincerely,

signature

(print name)

(address)

(city, state zip)