



April 9, 2025

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Drazan and Pham, and Members of the House Committee On Rules:

On behalf of the American Diabetes Association (ADA), we are writing to express our support of HJM 6, which urges Congress to continue to make robust investments in the National Institutes of Health.

Diabetes research and prevention is a top priority for the ADA. Robust funding for federal programs - including NIH's National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) and CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation (DDT) and National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP) - are critical to achieving significant advancements in prevention, treatment, and ultimately a cure for diabetes. NIDDK research has led to significant advances in diabetes treatments and prevention—including the development of continuous glucose monitors. (CGMs). The National DPP, an evidence-based lifestyle change program, has been proven to reduce the onset of new diabetes cases in individuals with prediabetes by 58% (71% for those 60 and older).<sup>1</sup>

The United States is facing a diabetes epidemic that jeopardizes the physical and financial health of our nation. Diabetes is the most expensive chronic disease and is the eighth leading cause of death in the U.S. This is why it is essential that Congress allocate robust funding for diabetes research and the sustainability of the federal research enterprise. An investment in these federally funded research programs is not solely an investment in the well-being of those currently affected by diabetes, but a commitment to combating the rising rates of chronic conditions across our nation.

Another linked and often co-occurring chronic disease that greatly impacts the state of Oregon (OR) is obesity. Approximately 1.4 million adults in OR, or 33.6% of the population, have obesity.<sup>2</sup> The OR adult obesity rate is projected to increase to 47.5% by 2030.<sup>3</sup> Health care expenses from obesity in Oregon are estimated to cost the state nearly \$6.2 billion annually.<sup>4</sup>

By prioritizing and supporting critical research in diabetes and obesity, we can pave the way for innovative solutions that will alleviate the burden of diabetes and obesity on individuals, families, and society as a whole. We thank the Oregon Legislature for highlighting the importance of federal funding for research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Sincerely,

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Director of State Government Affairs

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes-prevention/programs/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023). BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data: Home. BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data. <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/brfssprevalence/>

<sup>3</sup> Zachary J. Ward, M.P.H., Sara N. Bleich, Ph.D., Angie L. Cradock, Sc.D., Jessica L. Barrett, M.P.H., Catherine M. Giles, M.P.H., Chasmine Flax, M.P.H., Michael W. Long, Sc.D., and Steven L. Gortmaker, Ph.D. (2019) Projected U.S. State-Level Prevalence of Adult Obesity and Severe Obesity | New England Journal of Medicine (nejm.org) <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1909301>

<sup>4</sup> GlobalData. (2023). Obesity's Impact on Oregon's Economy and Workforce in 2023. <https://www.globaldata.com/health-economics/US/Oregon/Obesity-Impact-on-Oregon-Factsheet.pdf>