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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

July 26, 2005

Mr. Paul Tubiana
PO Box 21832
Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania 18002-1832

Dear Mr. Tubiana:

Thank you for contacting me with your concerns about the distinction between Type I and Type II diabetes and sharing your personal experiences as a diabetic. I appreciate hearing from you and having the benefit of your views.

As an original member of the bipartisan Senate Diabetes Caucus, formed to lend a congressional hand in the fight against this devastating disease and through my experiences as an honorary co-chair for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (JDF) International Children's Congress, I have gained a sincere appreciation for the challenges facing this patient community. As a father, I have been particularly touched by the advocacy of juvenile diabetics. I remain committed to improving the lives of people living with diabetes or at risk for the disease, and I continue to meet regularly with groups and individuals affected by diabetes to hear first hand how we can win the fight against this disease.

I am greatly concerned about the numerous debilitating diseases that affect millions of Americans each year and cost our country dearly in the way of human suffering. I believe biomedical research is our strongest tool in the prevention and treatment of serious diseases. As such, I recognize the vital role the NIH plays in supporting biomedical research and development at leading research institutions nationwide. This public/private research partnership has allowed the United States to maintain its position as the world leader in medical technology. The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) is the research Institute within the NIH, which conducts and supports nationwide research on diabetes, endocrine disorders, digestive diseases, and urology and renal diseases.

I have been and will continue to be a strong supporter of federal funding for basic, clinical, and translational research within the NIH. Because research for diabetes should be enhanced, I am proud to have supported legislation throughout my tenure in Congress to provide substantial funding increases for the NIH. Most notably, I supported Senator Connie Mack's Sense of the Senate Amendment to the Fiscal Year (FY) 1998 Budget Resolution, which called for doubling the NIH budget over a period of five years. I was pleased to support subsequent NIH appropriations, which fulfilled the goal of this resolution by increasing total NIH funding for biomedical research from \$13.7 billion in FY 1998 to \$27.2 billion in FY 2003.

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You may be interested to learn that President Bush has requested an increase of \$196 million in his FY 2006 budget proposal, which would bring total funding for the NIH to \$28.8 billion, including a \$9 million increase for the NIDDK. On March 11, 2005, Senator Judd Gregg of New Hampshire introduced S.Con.Res. 18, the FY 2006 Budget Appropriations Resolution. The following week, many aspects of the budget were thoroughly debated during consideration of this legislation. S.Con.Res. 18 passed the full Senate with my support by a vote of 51 to 49 on March 17, 2005. S.Con.Res. 18 would set forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for FY 2006.

Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations, introduced an amendment (S.Amdt. 173) to S.Con.Res. 18 on March 16, 2005, which would increase funding for the NIH by \$1.5 billion. This amendment passed with my support that same day by a vote of 63 to 37.

On March 11, 2005, Representative Jim Nussle of Iowa introduced H.Con.Res. 95, the House of Representatives' version of the FY 2006 budget resolution. On March 17, 2005, this measure passed the House by a vote of 218 to 214. A bipartisan, bicameral conference convened to iron out differences between the two chambers' versions of FY 2006 budget measures, and on April 28, 2005, the Senate approved the compromise bill (H.Con.Res. 95) by a vote of 52 to 47 with my support. That same day the House of Representatives passed this measure by a vote of 214 to 211. This measure sets aside \$257 billion for funding federal health related initiatives, which includes funding for NIH.

The NIH is funded through the annual Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. You may be interested to learn that on June 21, 2005, Representative Ralph Regula of Ohio introduced H.R. 3010, the FY 2006 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act. **Specific to your concerns, this measure would provide \$28.5 billion for the NIH, including \$1.7 billion for the NIDDK for FY 2006.** On June 24, 2005, the House passed this measure by a vote of 250 to 151. You may be interested to learn that the **Senate version of this legislation recommends \$29 billion for the NIH, including \$1.8 billion for the NIDDK for FY 2006.** Rest assured, as the FY 2006 appropriations process continues, I will be sure to keep in mind your concerns regarding the need for a better understanding of the distinctions and diagnoses of Type I and Type II diabetes.

Thank you again for contacting me. If I can be of further assistance with this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to call on me again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rick Santorum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rick" and last name "Santorum" clearly distinguishable.

Rick Santorum
United States Senate

RJS:cbk