



December 4, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

The Diabetes Advocacy Alliance (DAA) would like to welcome you as Speaker of the House of Representatives and express our eagerness to work with you to address issues of importance to people with diabetes and those at risk. The DAA is a coalition of 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 twenty organizations that make-up the DAA share a common goal of elevating diabetes on the national agenda so we may ultimately defeat diabetes. In the United States, nearly 30 million Americans have diabetes and an additional 86 million have prediabetes placing them at high risk of developing the disease. Not only has the number of people afflicted with this disease skyrocketed in recent years but so too have the costs. The diabetes epidemic cost our nation \$322 billion in 2012 and one out of every three Medicare dollars is spent on a person with diabetes. Both the human and economic toll of this devastating disease will continue to worsen unless something is done.

The DAA stands ready to work with you and your colleagues in the House and Senate to halt the diabetes epidemic and improve prevention, detection and care for people with diabetes and those at risk. We look forward to working with as you embark on this new role as Speaker of the House.

Sincerely,

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