

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Grijalva,

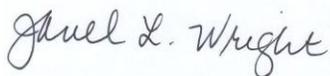
On behalf of the nearly 26 million Americans living with diabetes and the 79 million with prediabetes, the American Diabetes Association (Association) thanks you for your leadership and introduction of H.R. 3542, the Medicaid Enhancement and Emergency Job Creation Act of 2011. The Association supports H.R. 3542 and its intent to restore the enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and maintain it through the end of 2012.

Diabetes has a disproportionate impact on the Medicaid population and nearly 3.5 million Americans with diabetes rely on the program for their health care needs. Children and adults receiving coverage through Medicaid are more likely to be in poorer health than their privately-insured counterparts and thus depend on the services Medicaid provides to a greater extent than individuals with private insurance. Through the Medicaid program, children, pregnant women, adults and seniors have access to services and benefits that promote prevention, early detection and appropriate care.

Now, more than ever, people with diabetes rely on Medicaid for the tools to manage their disease and reduce their risk of tragic – and costly – complications such as blindness, amputations, end-stage kidney disease and heart disease. Restoring the enhanced Medicaid matching rates will allow states to reach our most vulnerable Americans while creating jobs in the health care sector. This legislation will provide essential coverage for people with diabetes at a crucial time.

Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact Amy Wotring, Associate Director, Federal Government Affairs at awotring@diabetes.org or 703.299.2087.

Sincerely,



Janel Wright
Chair, National Advocacy Committee

National Office

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Diabetes Information

Call 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383)
Online: www.diabetes.org
The Association gratefully accepts gifts through your will.

The Mission of the American Diabetes Association is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.