

January 13, 1998

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The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to request the opportunity to meet with you to discuss federal funding of diabetes research. We appreciated your encouraging remarks acknowledging that diabetes is "a matter of great national concern" at your news conference last August, which celebrated the Diabetes Initiatives in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. As you know, we have been working to make sure diabetes receives the attention and resources it deserves from the federal government to care for those who suffer from it and to find its cure.

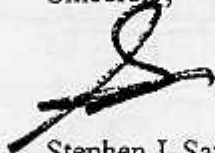
To our dismay, however, the monies that we celebrated in August had the unfortunate effect of reducing the monies made available in the appropriations process. Indeed, while the average increase provided to the various NIH institutes was 69% of the difference between the House and Senate figures, NIDDK was the only institute to receive less money than originally appropriated by either the House or the Senate.

This unfortunate result belies the notion that diabetes is a priority at the NIH. Accordingly, we have been collecting signatures on a petition directed to you (see attached sample) that urges you to make diabetes a national priority.

Our efforts have resulted in the collection of more than a quarter of a million signatures. Many stories abound of the volunteers who devoted time to collect these signatures. We are writing to request the opportunity to present these petitions to you in person. If we can arrange such a meeting, the American Diabetes Association will bring to the meeting several of the individuals responsible for collecting the most petitions, including the 12 ½ year old who wrote the attached letter, if she is available.

We hope that you will see such a meeting as an important opportunity to reach out to the nation's 16 million American's with diabetes and their families and friends.

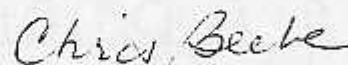
Sincerely,



Stephen J. Satalino
Chair of the Board



Mayer B. Davidson, MD
President



Christine A. Beebe, MS, RD, CDE, LD
President, Health Care & Education

Dear President Clinton,

Hi! My name is Megan Koleber. I'm 12½ years old and a straight A student at Jenks Middle School in Tulsa, OK. I play the piano & violin. I also have taken ballet for nine years, and have been on "toe" for three years and dance in jazz too. My mom showed me this petition in the Diabetes Forecast magazine; we receive monthly and I decided it's time to find a cure for diabetes. I was diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes a month before my 3rd birthday. Since being diagnosed I have taken 10,374 insulin shots (3 times a day) and twice that many finger-sticks to check my blood-sugar daily. I was so surprised to learn that finding a cure for Diabetes was not a priority. Thank you for increasing research last year, please do it again this year!

I'm in good control now, but when I become older I would like to still have my sight, kidneys and heart in good condition and these are organs that have problems with people who have Diabetes. I hope that my collecting signatures for this petition with my families help will win me the trip to Washington, D.C. to meet you and Mrs. Clinton personally to deliver the Cure for Diabetes petition!

Sincerely,

Megan Keeler

P.S. I enclosed a picture of me and one of my Beanies!
(Snowball)



Sign the petition to President Clinton!

(See page 30 for more details.)

Dear President Clinton:

More than 16 million Americans have diabetes. According to the government, it costs America more than \$137 billion a year. But for some reason, diabetes research is not a national priority.

In the last ten years, diabetes research lost ground to higher profile diseases. Last year, you and Speaker Gingrich increased diabetes research by \$30 million. That's a good start, but hundreds of millions more will need to be invested if we are to find a cure and defeat diabetes.

I strongly support increased funding for diabetes research and urge you to make a cure for diabetes a national priority.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

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Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Please make copies, complete, and return by 1/1/98 to:
Petition Drive, 1660 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
or fax (703) 549-8748.