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February 27, 2006

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 with diabetes. 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.

You may be interested to learn that on July 28, 2005, I introduced S. 1543, the Clinical Research Act of 2005. I was proud to introduce this important legislation, which would seek to improve partnerships between clinical research centers and healthcare providers by establishing clinical research support grants, demonstration projects, and infrastructure grants through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Center for Research Resources. **It is my hope that this legislation will help translate the major breakthroughs in biomedical science made at the research phase into practical treatments and improvements for patients.** The significant strides made in biomedical research have led to an unprecedented amount of information for improving health and preventing disease; however, too often this information is not disseminated to patients and healthcare providers as quickly as possible. My legislation would attempt to remedy this situation by increasing the number of clinical researchers and creating a clearinghouse whereby critical and lifesaving information could be successfully shared. Although S. 1543 has been referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, of which I am not a member, please be assured that I will work with my colleagues to get this important legislation passed and signed into law.

I have been and will continue to be a strong supporter of federal funding for basic, clinical, and translational research within the NIH. 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

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and treatment of disease. I recognize the vital role the NIH plays in supporting biomedical research and development at leading research institutions nationwide—a public/private research partnership that has allowed the United States to maintain its position as the world leader in medical technology while improving the quality of life for millions of patients. The National Institutes of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) is the Institute within the NIH that conducts and supports nationwide research on diabetes, endocrine disorders, digestive diseases, and urology and renal diseases.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have strongly supported increases in federal funding for the NIH. Most recently, during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 budget debate, I voted for an amendment introduced by Senator Arlen Specter, 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.

As you may be aware, the NIH is funded through the annual Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. **The final version of this legislation provides \$29 billion for the NIH in FY 2006, including \$1.7 billion for the NIDDK.** On December 14, 2005, the House passed this measure. On December 21, 2005, the Senate passed H.R. 3010 with my support. On December 30, 2005, President George W. Bush signed this legislation into law (P.L. 109 –149).

I am pleased to know of our shared concern about the numerous debilitating diseases that affect millions of Americans, including Types I and II diabetes. If I can be of further assistance with this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to call on me in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Santorum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Santorum
United States Senate

RJS: ctc