

RICK SANTORUM
PENNSYLVANIA

REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE
Chairman

WASHINGTON, DC
511 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-6324

United States Senate

<http://santorum.senate.gov>

COMMITTEES:

FINANCE

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

June 10, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Tubiana:

Thank you for contacting me regarding federal funding for diabetes research. I appreciate hearing from you and having the benefit of your views.

As you may know, diabetes currently affects more than 18 million Americans and is extremely costly, in terms of both health care dollars and in human suffering. In Pennsylvania, an estimated 694,000 individuals suffer from some form of diabetes, accounting for nearly 7% of all Pennsylvanians. I firmly believe the federal government has a strong and active role to play in helping to combat the devastating effects of diabetes on its population. I am proud to be an original member of the bipartisan Senate Diabetes Caucus, formed to lend a congressional hand in the fight against this devastating disease. I have also served as an honorary co-chair for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (JDF) International Children's Congress.

I believe biomedical research is our strongest tool in the prevention and treatment of diabetes. As such, I recognize the vital role the National Institutes of Health (NIH) play 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.

Begun in 1887 as a one-room Laboratory of Hygiene, 27 institutes now constitute the NIH, which employ over 18,000 scientists, physicians, nurses, and other support personnel. The NIH conduct both intramural research projects in on-site laboratories, and also support extramural projects by making grants and contracts with universities, medical schools, and other research institutions. The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) is the research institute within the NIH charged with conducting and supporting nationwide research on diabetes, endocrine disorders, digestive diseases, and urology and renal diseases.

I am a strong believer in the potential of basic and clinical research conducted through NIH. Because research for serious diseases such as diabetes should be enhanced, I have long supported and voted for generous increases in the NIH budget. In 1997, I supported Senator Connie Mack's Sense of the Senate amendment, which was successfully adopted to the Fiscal Year (FY) 1998 Budget Resolution. This amendment called for a historic, 5-year effort to double federal spending on biomedical research through the NIH. You may be pleased to learn that, with my support, Congress and President Bush recently completed this effort by appropriating \$27.1

ALLENTOWN
3802 Federal Office Building
504 West Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18105
(610) 770-0142

ALTOONA
Regency Square
Suite 202
Route 220 North
Altoona, PA 16601
(814) 946-7023

COUDERSPORT
81 Marvin Hill Road
Coudersport, PA 16915
(814) 274-9773

ERIE
1705 West 26th Street
Erie, PA 16508
(814) 454-7114

HARRISBURG
555 Walnut Street
First Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 231-7540

PHILADELPHIA
Widener Building
One South Penn Square
Suite 960
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 864-6900

PITTSBURGH
100 West Station Square Dr.
Landmarks Building
Suite 250
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 562-0533

SCRANTON
527 Linden Street
Scranton, PA 18503
(570) 344-8799

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 that reads "Rick Santorum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" at the beginning.

Rick Santorum
United States Senate

RJS:tk