



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 5, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Tubiana:

Thank you for your letter about diabetes. I appreciate learning how this issue is of personal importance to you.

Diabetes is a chronic disease that affects millions of Americans, including many children. I believe that we must work to find better therapies and cures for this disease and others. My Administration has demonstrated a strong commitment to medical research by completing a 5-year doubling of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget to more than \$27 billion up from \$13 billion in 1998. As a result of this increase, the NIH now trains 1,500 more scientists per year and issues 10,000 more research grants. In 2002 alone, the NIH devoted approximately \$790 million to diabetes research. This investment will help turn today's research opportunities into tomorrow's medical success stories.

In June of 2002, I unveiled my HealthierUS Initiative to help all Americans live longer, better, and healthier lives. Federal, State, and local governments must continue to encourage individuals to realize the great benefits of proper nutrition and exercise. By including physical activity, good nutrition, and healthy behavior in our daily routines, Americans can significantly reduce the onset and burden of chronic diseases such as diabetes. Following the guidelines for good nutrition, getting enough physical exercise, and maintaining proper weight can also help aid those suffering from diabetes to reduce the chance of severe complications associated with the disease. Doctors have found that even minor weight loss in patients with type 2 diabetes can improve glucose control, decrease dependence on medications, and enhance quality of life.

Through the National Diabetes Education Program, a joint effort of the NIH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, my Administration is educating Americans about diabetes risk factors and encouraging them to make simple changes in their lifestyle that will help prevent this serious disease.

We are also working with volunteers from the American Diabetes Association, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and other organizations to raise awareness of diabetes in our communities and to provide assistance for families who have loved ones with diabetes.

We have the medical technology and skill to find more cures. Only through a deeper understanding of diseases such as diabetes will we find the cures that will bring new hope and health to millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "B".

George W. Bush