

National Indian
Health Board

Your involvement can make a
difference for communities and families!



Legislative Action Alert

March 3, 2010

Speak Up for the Special Diabetes Programs for Indians (SDPI)

Today, Senate Bill S.3058 was introduced to **reauthorize the Special Diabetes Programs for Indians (SDPI)**, which funding is set to expire September 2011. The bill was sponsored by Senator Dorgan (D-ND), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and co-sponsored by Senators Collins (R-ME), Baucus (D-MT), Inouye (D-HI), Hatch (R-UT), Stabenow (D-MI), Durbin (D-IL), Barrasso (R-WY), Bingaman (D-NM), Bunning (R-KY), Cochran (R-MS), Crapo (R-ID), Grassley (R-IA), Johanns (R-NE), Lincoln (D-AR), Murkowski (R-AK), Schumer (D-NY), Shaheen (D-NH), and Warner (D-VA).

Congress established the SDPI in 1997 for the prevention and treatment of diabetes in American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). Today, the SDPI supports nearly 400 Indian Health Service, Tribal and Urban Indian health programs in 35 states. Key health indicators – including blood sugar control, cholesterol levels and kidney function – have improved among AI/AN with diabetes each year since this program was created.

Senate Bill 3058 would reauthorize SDPI for additional five years and appropriate \$200 million per year. Last fall, a companion bill with the same terms, H.R. 3668, was introduced in House.

For more information about the SDPI, please visit the Indian Health Service website:

<http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Diabetes/index.cfm?module=programsSDPI>.

ACTION NEEDED: Please contact your Senators and Representatives and ask them to become a cosponsor of this important legislation. During this difficult budget climate, securing additional funding for SDPI is going to be extremely difficult so it's important for your representatives to hear from you so they know how important SDPI is to Indian Country.

Tell them:

1. SPDI has allowed Indian health programs and tribal communities to develop vital resources and tools to both prevent and treat diabetes.
2. SPDI is a proven investment: SPDI programs have led to improvements in blood glucose control, reductions in lower amputation rates and improvements in preventing kidney failure.
3. To win the war against diabetes in Indian Country, we must work to ensure the continuation of the SDPI.

HOW TO DO IT

1. By Phone: The number to call: Capitol Switch Board (202) 224-3121.
2. By letter:
 - a. Download a **sample letter for Senator** - [click here](#)
 - b. Download a **sample letter for Representative** – [click here](#)

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS: Please contact NIHB's Legislative Director, Jennifer Cooper at (202) 507-4076.