

Dear [SCHEDULER],

As a constituent impacted by diabetes, I am writing to request a meeting with [Senator/Representative NAME] during the August recess to discuss a few key federal policy priorities. I would like [his/her] support for continued federal funding for diabetes research and prevention programs, passage of legislation that would make insulin affordable for people with commercial insurance, and ensuring nutrition counseling and obesity treatment is accessible for Medicare beneficiaries.

As you may know, over 38 million people in the United States are currently living with diabetes and nearly 98 million are living with prediabetes. This diagnosis comes with a staggering collective cost of \$412.9 billion that includes direct medical costs and reduced productivity. As you can imagine, the importance of sound policies and funding to support diabetes research and prevention cannot be overstated. Not only does federal funding of diabetes programs lead to life-changing breakthroughs for people with diabetes, but these investments could also save our nation billions of dollars across the health care system.

Moreover, I want to stress the unsustainable cost of insulin, a lifesaving and necessary medication for millions of people living with diabetes. There is no substitute for insulin, which nearly tripled in cost between 2012–2022. Sadly, because of the high cost of insulin, many Americans' lives are put in danger when they cannot afford their medication.

Similarly, research shows that up to 53% of new cases of type 2 diabetes each year are linked to obesity. The ADA recognizes obesity as a chronic disease that results from various behavioral, environmental, and genetic factors. There are recognized and effective programs and services to treat and prevent obesity. Unfortunately, they are not accessible to most Americans.

These issues are important to me and millions of Americans who count on your office to represent us in Washington. I am happy to work around your schedule during the August recess to secure time to discuss these important issues. Thank you in advance for considering [my/our] request for a meeting. Please contact me at [EMAIL] or [PHONE NUMBER] to set up a meeting while [the Representative/Senator] is home.

Best,

[NAME]