



October 22, 2015

The Honorable Eliot Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess
U.S. House of Representatives
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Engel and Burgess:

The members of the Diabetes Advocacy Alliance™ (DAA) would like to express our support for H.R. 3658, the Gestational Diabetes Act of 2015 (GEDI). The vision of the DAA is to influence change in the US health care system to improve diabetes prevention, detection and care. We believe the GEDI Act is a significant step in efforts to help lower the incidence of gestational diabetes, as well as help prevent type 2 diabetes in women who previously had gestational diabetes.

The legislation's purpose is two-fold. First, it expands the basic, clinical and public health research investigating gestational diabetes and current treatments and therapies. It would also provide for research to track mothers who had gestational diabetes and develop or define evidence-based interventions to help them prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes. Second, the bill would provide grant funding for demonstration programs that expand community-based activities, help state-based health programs increase prevention activities, or train health providers on gestational diabetes.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), gestational diabetes affects as many as 9.2 percent of pregnancies among women in the United States.¹ In addition, 70 percent of women who have had GDM will develop type 2 diabetes at some point in their lives.²

As the diabetes epidemic continues to grow, so does the need for legislation that reflects the interests of those who suffer from the disease. The DAA applauds you for your efforts in sponsoring legislation that would have a significant impact on maternal and child health.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

¹ DeSisto CL, Kim SY, Sharma AJ. Prevalence estimates of gestational diabetes mellitus in the united states, pregnancy risk assessment monitoring system (PRAMS), 2007–2010. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2014;11:130415.

² Kim C, Newton KM, Knopp RH. Gestational diabetes and the incidence of type 2 diabetes. *Diabetes Care*. 2002;25:1862–1868.

American Association of Diabetes Educators

American Clinical Laboratory Association

American Diabetes Association

Diabetes Hands Foundation

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

National Kidney Foundation

Novo Nordisk Inc.

The Endocrine Society

VSP Vision Care

YMCA of the USA