The Honorable Debbie Stabenow The Honorable Gary Peters

U.S. Senate U.S. Senate

731 Hart Senate Office Building 724 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510 Washington, DC 20510

Senators Stabenow and Peters:

We are writing today in support of the American Diabetes Association’s (ADA) FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending request. The ADA’s Safe at School (SAS) program provides training and support to school nurses and school personnel in order that they may assist students with diabetes with their diabetes care while at school. This training is necessary to schools’ ability to ensure our students with diabetes are medically safe at school and have the same educational opportunities as their peers.

Approximately one in every 400-600 children has diabetes, a chronic disease for which there is no cure. Diabetes requires continual management for the person with the disease to stay healthy. Unfortunately, sometimes schools are not prepared to meet the needs of their students with diabetes and as a result, these students can have their health jeopardized, education compromised, and can be denied access to activities enjoyed by their peers without diabetes like field trips and before or after school activities.

Well-managed diabetes during the school day and at all school-sponsored events is crucial for a student’s ability to learn and to support normal growth and development in a safe environment with diabetes management provided by a school nurse or trained non-medical school personnel.

Fortunately, diabetes technology has made management of the disease much easier and safer. Schools in Wayne County are allowed to train non-medical school personnel to assist students with diabetes with their care when school nurses are not available. The ADA’s Safe at School program has a wealth of training resources designed by expert pediatricians, nurses, and diabetes educators, that has been used successfully to train school nurses and non-medical school personnel across the country on best practices in diabetes management in the school setting.

This program has already helped thousands of families around the country. Safe at School combines the ADA’s Standards of Care and best practice with relevant federal and state laws and policies to develop guidance, resources and tools for families, schools, health care providers, and other community partners.

If funded, ADA will be able to accelerate education and support to schools in Wayne County. The funding will enable ADA to send certified diabetes care and education specialists in to provide hands-on training on the management of diabetes for their students including warning signs for hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia, blood glucose monitoring, administration of insulin, and handling diabetes emergencies including the administration of glucagon.

The schools and communities in Wayne County desperately need this funding so that they can meet their legal obligation while ensuring students have a medically safe environment in which they can be healthy and thrive academically.

We respectfully ask that you support ADA’s funding request.

Sincerely,