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The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to express our support for S. 539, the “National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act.” According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 26 million Americans have diabetes and another 79 million Americans have pre-diabetes; the CDC projects that as many as one in three American adults could have diabetes by 2050 if current trends continue. One in every 10 health care dollars—and one in every three Medicare dollars—is spent on diabetes and its complications.

Your legislation will help to address these alarming statistics by creating a Commission that will focus on improving diabetes care delivery and patient outcomes. This Commission would be charged with conducting a comprehensive evaluation of current federal quality improvement initiatives and identifying gaps where new approaches are needed to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of diabetes care delivered to patients. The Commission will also identify and eliminate duplication and assist in the coordination of federal quality improvement efforts across all federal agencies, as well as help to better leverage the significant federal investment in research by evaluating best practices and other resources and tools for diabetes health care professionals and patients.

We believe the Commission created by your legislation would be an important step forward in addressing the diabetes epidemic, and we applaud you for your leadership in introducing this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

James L. Madara, MD