**<SAMPLE SDPI SUPPORT LETTER>**

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Office Building Address

Washington, D.C. 205\_\_\_

Dear Senator/Representative,

As a constituent and someone who knows first-hand the tremendous burden diabetes places on my community, I am writing ***to urge multi-year reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program (SDP) and Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) as part of any permanent or interim Sustainable Growth Rate legislation (SGR Fix) by March 31, 2014***. . Without an immediate, long-term reauthorization, critical infrastructure that has greatly contributed to the success of SDPI, especially staff, will be severely impacted by a delay.

As you may know, American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) adults are 2.3 times more likely to have diagnosed diabetes compared (compared with non-Hispanic whites) and the death rate due to diabetes for AI/ANs is 1.6 times higher than the general U.S. population. However, the federal investment in SDPI represents a significant accomplishment and is improving the health care quality and access of AI/ANs.

Today, SDPI supports over 404 Indian Health Service, Tribal, and Urban programs in 35 states. SDPI has also led to significant advances in diabetes education, prevention, and treatment. In (ENTER STATE), SDPI programs are making a real difference. **(Please add a few sentences about SDPI-supported programs in your Area and/or Tribal Community)**. SDPI is saving lives, transforming communities and the way diabetes is treated, and saving our federal healthcare system dollars as well.

My (ENTER COMMUNITY NAME OR TRIBE) relies on Congressional support of SDPI over the years. We would be honored to show you the difference our SDPI program is making for Tribal communities in (ENTER CITY, STATE) who are dealing with the burdens of diabetes. We want to show you first-hand what we are accomplishing with SDPI dollars. Please contact (ENTER NAME OF GRANTEE) at (ENTER PHONE NUMBER) or (ENTER EMAIL) to arrange a visit to our program.

I recognize that the budget environment is difficult and tough decisions had to be made. I am happy to let you know more about the tremendous return on the federal investment demonstrated by SDPI. Your support for this program would be greatly appreciated by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(insert name of Tribe)**.

To learn more about diabetes in AI/AN communities and stories of how SDPI is saving lives please visit <http://nihb.org/sdpi>.

Sincerely,