

CASTLE INTRODUCES BILL TO IMPROVE DIABETES CARE AND PREVENTION FOR MINORITY POPULATIONS -- May 3, 2007

Bill

works to address unique challenges faced by minority populations

Washington D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, Co-Chair of the House Diabetes Caucus this week introduced the "Diabetes Prevention Access and Care Act of 2007" (DPAC) along with Rep. Diana DeGette, his Co-Chair on the Caucus and urged his colleagues to support the bill. The legislation helps to improve diabetes care, prevention, treatment and education within minority communities throughout the United States, helping to address unique challenges faced by minority populations.

According to the Minority Health Month Foundation, the male population in Delaware has an incidence rate of Diabetes of 9.61% in many parts of the state, particularly New Castle County and Sussex County and the prevalence of Diabetes in black non-Hispanics in certain areas is 14.41% or greater.

"I have helped reintroduce the "Diabetes Prevention Access and Care Act of 2007" because it recognizes that minorities continue to have a higher incidence rate of the disease and are often less able to obtain the care they need to manage their diabetes. Delaware is no exception to the alarming statistics which confirm that diabetes is a disease that affects millions of Americans, regardless of race, gender, or ethnicity. This legislation provides more effective treatment and education for diabetes which is greatly needed throughout the country and recognizes the role several federal agencies are currently playing or should be playing with respect to minority diabetes and tasks them with jumpstarting or improving those tasks. Some of those agencies include the National Institutes of Health, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Indian Health Service," Castle said.

Congressman Castle last week served as the keynote speaker at the National Minority Quality Leadership Summit where he addressed hundreds of policy makers, healthcare industry leaders and representatives from national advocacy organizations. Castle focused on the federal government's role in reducing health disparities and highlighted the "Diabetes Prevention Access and Care Act" as well as his role in stem cell research and how these initiatives can help in this area.

A select list of the specific tasks assigned to agencies through the "Diabetes Prevention Access and Care Act of 2007" is shown below:

- NIH will examine the various factors that lead to diabetes in minority populations, including behavior, environment, and genetics.
- CDC will carry out culturally appropriate diabetes health promotion and prevention programs for minority populations as well as public awareness campaigns.
- The Indian Health Service will conduct research on ethnic and culturally appropriate diabetes treatment, care, prevention, and services by health care professionals for the American Indian population.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration will provide additional funding for programs designed to expand career opportunities within minority populations focused on diabetes treatment and care.

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