

CASTLE: COST OF DIABETES REACHES UNPRECEDENTED HIGH -- JANUARY 23, 2008

Study reveals costs have climbed 32% since 2002

Washington, D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, co-chair of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, was joined by other Members of the House along with members of the American Diabetes Association (ADA), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and National Institutes of Health (NIH) this afternoon for the release of a study commissioned by the ADA. The study, "The Economic Costs of Diabetes in the U.S. in 2007," shows diabetes is costing Americans \$174 billion a year; meanwhile, medical expenditures of care for people with diabetes are estimated to be \$116 billion with a disproportionate percentage of the costs resulting from treatment and hospitalization of people with diabetes-related complications. According to the study, this number has increased by 32 percent since 2002.

"The cost of diabetes is reaching new levels, and the impact is being felt across the nation," Rep. Castle said. "Even in Delaware, the total cost of diabetes exceeds medical costs. In 2006, the cost of diabetes for Delawareans was estimated at \$492,100,000, which includes excess medical costs of \$319,300,000 attributed to diabetes and lost productivity valued at \$172,800,000. These numbers are proof that diabetes is a costly disease and reiterate the need to take action now. Prevention and early detection have never been more important, and we need to take an aggressive approach to increase public awareness of diabetes."

Dr. Ann L. Albright, President of Health Care & Education with the ADA said, "The findings re-affirm that diabetes is a public health crisis, and its implications are painful and far reaching. This underscores the importance of early diagnosis and treatment. Diabetes becomes much more costly in financial and human terms when the disease is not properly treated."

The study also assessed the economic impact of indirect costs, which were estimated to be \$58 billion when accounting for reduced productivity of both those in the labor force and unpaid workers, unemployment from disease-related disability, and increased absenteeism.

According to the ADA, of the 853,480 Delaware residents in 2006, approximately 51,300 had been diagnosed with diabetes. Nearly 21 million people across the country have diabetes, according to the CDC, and last year alone, diabetes claimed more than 284,000 lives nationwide.

To view a copy of the study, visit the ADA's website at www.diabetes.org/cost.

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