

CASTLE MEETS WITH NBA STAR, DOMINIQUE WILKINS, TO DISCUSS DIABETES -- MARCH 12, 2008

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Diabetes awareness is critical

Washington, DC -- Congressman Mike Castle (R-DE), co-chair of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, met with NBA Hall of Fame inductee Dominique Wilkins to discuss legislation which would establish a National Diabetes Educator within the office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The purpose of this new position would be to provide leadership for the development and implementation of a national strategy for reducing the incidence, progression, and impact of diabetes and its complications.

Mr. Wilkins was diagnosed with type 2 Diabetes eight years ago and has taken an active role in the community, raising both awareness and funds for diabetes. Last year, Wilkins and Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich launched their "Full Court Press on Diabetes" program to help raise awareness and money for Diabetes.

Rep. Castle released the following statement about the meeting:

"I applaud the work that Mr. Wilkins has done to raise the profile of Diabetes in the United States. I share in his quest for better national coordination in addressing Diabetes and believe that appointing a National Diabetes Educator is worth considering. As co-chair of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, I remain committed to improving access to quality care for those living with diabetes, boosting prevention efforts, and increasing the investment in research for better treatments and an eventual cure for the over 20 million Americans that struggle with diabetes and its complications every day."

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