Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 20, 2018

Ms. Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Verma,

As a result of a strong federal commitment to type 1 diabetes (T1D) research, in conjunction with private investment, there are many new technologies on the market today and many in development that would help people with T1D better manage their disease and avoid costly complications. We applaud recent decisions by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to cover devices like certain continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) and enable beneficiaries to use smart devices to share health data with family members and providers to improve outcomes and better manage conditions. We greatly appreciate your leadership.

We are writing today to ask CMS to find a path forward for access to the next wave of diabetes management technologies. Of particular concern are artificial pancreas (AP) systems, which connect two devices -- a CGM and an insulin pump -- through use of an algorithm. Research shows that these types of systems, which provide real-time feedback on glucose levels and adjust insulin dosing appropriately, do a much better job of managing diabetes than traditional methods.

One such artificial pancreas system is on the market today, and multiple next generation systems, as well as improved components, are in the development pipeline. Congress has worked to ensure the National Institutes of Health and FDA are doing their part to advance AP systems through the research pipeline and into the hands of patients. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has made AP systems a priority and recently created a new device category for interoperable systems.

Private payers have already recognized the importance of allowing people with T1D to have access to innovative technologies. In fact, the nation's 25 largest private insurers now cover the first generation artificial pancreas system, while Medicare does not. With your leadership focused on modernizing Medicare coverage policies and with multiple new technologies on the horizon, we firmly believe this area is ripe for greater attention from CMS.

We ask that CMS work with the key stakeholders in the diabetes community to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have access to technologies available in the private sector. Aging into Medicare should not deny those with diabetes coverage for their currently covered, relied-upon

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technologies, notably artificial pancreas systems, CGMs, and other diabetes management tools. Further, we ask that you inform us of the agency's progress within the next three months.

Sincerely,

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Member of Congress

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Co-Chair of the Diabetes Caucus
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