

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Matthew J. Memoli, M.D.
Acting Director, National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Acting Director Memoli:

We write to you as the co-chairs of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus. We are concerned with the March 10, 2025 termination of the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) grant support for the Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study (DPPOS). DPPOS is a decades-long study into type 2 diabetes and is currently examining links between type 2 diabetes and dementia. DPPOS is currently managed by Columbia University, which is the subject of a university-wide freeze of grant funding. With more than 90% of the funds being distributed across 30 research sites nationwide, there are alternative funding management options, if necessary. As leaders of the bipartisan Congressional Diabetes Caucus, we are dedicated to the preservation of DPPOS funding and urge the continuation of this critical study advancing diabetes prevention and public health efforts.

DPPOS assesses the long-term effects of the interventions used in the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP). The study follows the original cohort of DPP participants who took part in the DPP Lifestyle Change Program, which demonstrated people who are at high risk for type 2 diabetes can prevent or delay the disease through dietary changes and increased physical activity. 88% percent of eligible DPP participants joined the study last year. DPPOS research is conducted at 30 institutions across 21 states, and the program currently supports research on Alzheimer's disease and Alzheimer's disease-related dementias in prediabetes and type 2 diabetes. It also includes studies on the long-term effects of diabetes prevention on other health conditions including cancer, heart disease and stroke, nerve damage, kidney disease and eye disease.

We understand negotiations are ongoing regarding the restoration of funding at Columbia but remain concerned with prolonged disruptions to the program's critical research. Please respond to the following questions in detail no later than April 8, 2025:

1. While negotiations are ongoing, what is the current status of the DPPOS program? If the program remains paused for a prolonged period, how will the NIH prevent operational disruption for its research sites and participants?
2. If you deem that the DPPOS program can no longer be managed through its current university soon, will NIH consider reallocating funding management to a different institution currently within the program?
3. Finally, if the DPPOS program is terminated, how will NIH ensure the years and taxpayer dollars invested in this study do not go to waste?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We strongly urge you to take necessary action to ensure that DPPOS continues to provide insights into diabetes and related conditions for years to come and fuels improved outcomes for individuals with or at risk of type 2 diabetes.

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress