

# U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY

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**RANKING MEMBER** *Special Committee on Aging*

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## **Sen. Casey's Opening Statement Hearing on JDRF and Type 1 Diabetes Research July 26, 2017**

“Let’s hear it for Senator Collins, our Chairman. We don’t get a chance to do that very often, so I’m grateful you participated. We don’t do it enough, but we do want to thank Chairman Collins for having the hearing and also for her years and years of work on these issues. And we are grateful that you all are here to help us this year.

“We’re also pleased that we will have the co-chair of the Diabetes Caucus, Sen. Shaheen, to participate in our hearing today—that’s unusual, when you’re not a member of a committee to be part of another committee hearing. So we’re grateful that she is willing to spend that time and to do that work.

“We are also pleased to have so many delegates here of the JDRF Children’s Congress to help us in the Senate to get this message out and to work with us. It’s so important that you’ve joined us today because finding a cure for type 1 diabetes requires a combined effort from people of all ages and all backgrounds. Thanks to the delegates for advocating for the Special Diabetes Program.

“Each delegate here will be more persuasive than I can be in making the case. That’s why it’s so important that you’re here today. Please continue to tell elected officials, not only here in Washington but around the country in your own communities and your own states, why research funding matters.

“Investing in research has led to the development of the artificial pancreas. Investing in research means a lot of you don’t have to use needles to track your blood sugar levels. Investing in research also means that diabetes has not stopped you from going to camp, or playing outside at recess, or doing so many other things. These are just a couple examples of the success of the Special Diabetes Program and what can be accomplished when Congress fully funds our promise to fight type 1 diabetes.

“You are also here during an important debate about health care. So, in addition to telling those of us on the committee and in Congress about the importance of this program. It’s important to explain why health insurance matters, and why Medicaid and CHIP are so important to you and your families.

“We must ensure that people who have type 1 diabetes are not denied care or asked to pay more for their care—that used to happen around here when people would make those

arguments, but lately those arguments haven't been made too often. We want to ensure that when you get older that you can access care that's affordable as well.

"The Senate health care bill could lead to higher costs for individuals and families in this room.

"I'm pleased that our witnesses are here today with us. In my case, because I represent the state of Pennsylvania. I'm grateful to welcome Lorynn to the witness table and also grateful that she's willing to share not only why research is so important, but why affordable care is as well. Max Wolper and Ryan Baker are also Pennsylvania delegates as well. Thanks to Max and Ryan for being here as well.

"So we look forward to hearing from Lorynn and the other witnesses. We're grateful that each of them is here to provide testimony. And I look forward to working with Chairman Collins and others to ensure that the Special Diabetes Program continues in 2018 and beyond. I'm convinced that together we can turn type 1 into type none.

"Thank you."

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