



American Diabetes Association®

Our Mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

Hon. Richard Elías
Pima County Board of Supervisors
130 West Congress St., 11th Floor
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Friday, July 19, 2013

Dear Supervisor Elías,

Diabetes has become an escalating health crisis in our nation, particularly in Arizona. If current trends continue, one out of every three children born after 2001 will develop diabetes. Diabetes has no cure and is nearly twice as likely to affect Hispanics, African Americans and senior populations. Native Americans are at an even higher risk. Currently, Native American populations in Arizona have among the highest recorded prevalence of diabetes in the world.

Some statistics showing the health and financial costs of the diabetes epidemic in Arizona:

- More than 350,000 Arizonans are affected by diabetes. Diabetes costs Arizona \$2.3 billion annually in medical costs alone.
- Native Americans in Arizona were found to have 245.2% greater than average risk of diabetes.
- Native Americans in Arizona also ranked highest in mortality from diabetes among all other groups.
- In Southern Arizona nearly 125,000 individuals are living with diabetes. That's approximately one out of every 10 people.
- In Southern Arizona (Pima County, Pinal County, Santa Cruz County, Yuma County, Cochise County and Greenlee County,) the annual costs of diabetes exceed \$656 million in medical expenses.
- Adults with diabetes have death rates from heart disease about 2 to 4 times higher than adults without diabetes. The risk for stroke also is 2 to 4 times higher among people with diabetes.

We are supporting the American Diabetes Association of Southern Arizona's 2013 STEP OUT Walk to Stop Diabetes. We feel compelled to support this effort to stop this deadly disease that affects so many of our constituents.

Please join us by giving your support to this event with a pledge donation or fundraising \$500. We encourage your participation at the event on October 6th at the Rillito Downs. There will be photo opportunities and a chance to walk alongside constituents directly affected by this disease.

By working together we can create a future for Arizona that is free of diabetes. Please complete the attached form and send to Fred Gomez, Executive Director, American Diabetes Association, at 795-3711, Ext. 7111 or fgomez@diabetes.org. Or you can mail your commitment to: American Diabetes Association, Attn: Fred Gomez, 3400 E. Speedway Blvd., #108, Tucson, AZ, 85716.

Sincerely,


Dr. Ned Norris, Jr.
Chairman, Tohono O'odham Nation

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