

Testimony by

Maria Muayad

Age 10 from Yarmouth, Maine

JDRF 2023 Children's Congress Delegate

At the Hearing entitled:

“Accelerating Breakthroughs: How the Special Diabetes Program is Creating Hope for those Living with Type 1 Diabetes”

Wednesday, July 11, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Before the

United States Senate

Committee on Appropriations

Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 106

Washington, D.C.

Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Senator Shaheen, and Members of the Committee – thank you for inviting me to speak. I am honored to represent my fellow delegates at JDRF 2023 Children’s Congress in this hearing.

I am Maria Muayad from Yarmouth, Maine. I am ten years old, and I have been living with type 1 diabetes for three years.

As you can tell from looking at all the delegates in front of you, we are a diverse group of people. Some of us are in preschool and some are about to go to college. Some, like me, love math and others, well, they prefer other classes at school.

What brings us all together is that we all live with type 1 diabetes. We know what it feels like to live with the highs and lows of diabetes. Literally.

My family and I are first generation Americans and proud Mainers. We know that with hard work, we can do anything. Every delegate knows this, too. And that’s why we’re here.

My dream, and my family’s big hope, is to cure type 1 diabetes. Together, with your help, we can do it.

The Special Diabetes Program funds research that is leading us to cures. We don’t have one today, but someday we will—and research from the SDP is important to making it happen.

It’s going to be AMAZING when we cure type 1 diabetes. There is so much I’m looking forward to.

Where there’s a cure, I won’t have to wear devices that itch and hurt—and that bring me unwanted attention from my classmates when they make noise.

When there’s a cure, I won’t have to eat food to treat a low right after I brush my teeth—which is just as annoying as any device I have to wear.

When there’s a cure, I’ll be able to spend more time doing the things that I love, like FaceTiming with my extended family in Iraq, painting my mom’s nails, and playing outside with my friends.

Until we cure this disease, I would also like it if everyone could afford the diabetes supplies they need to live. All the medicines and tools I need to stay alive are very expensive, but they are necessary, and they work. I hope that you can help find a way for that to happen.

Next year I will start middle school. Later, I want to go to college and eventually become a pediatrician so I can help other people—including kids with diabetes.

It would be even better if, by the time I am a pediatrician, kids don’t get type 1 diabetes anymore. The only way that will happen is if you all keep funding diabetes research.

Thank you very much for letting me share my hope for the future. And thank you, Senator Collins and members of the committee, for all you are doing to help us.