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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Senator Byron Dorgan to be Honored with the Legacy Award by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International, the American Diabetes Association, and the National Indian Health Board

Bismarck, North Dakota, Aug. 11, 2010 – North Dakota families representing the American Diabetes Association (ADA), Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF) and the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) will present Senator Byron Dorgan with the Legacy Award for his leadership in advancing diabetes research, treatment, and prevention. The event will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 11 at 9:15 a.m. at the United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, N.D.

Senator Dorgan has been a long time champion for people with diabetes in North Dakota and the nation. He is the lead sponsor of bipartisan legislation (S. 3058) to renew the Special Diabetes Program, which funds diabetes research through the National Institutes of Health and diabetes prevention, treatment and education initiatives through the Indian Health Service. He is also Chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, where he has led efforts to raise awareness about the burden of diabetes on tribal communities.

Thanks to the Senator's leadership, tremendous progress is being made in preventing, treating, and curing diabetes, which affects 34,000 North Dakotans and costs the state economy over \$300 million a year. Nationwide, 24 million Americans live with diabetes, with an annual cost to the U.S. economy of \$218 billion. Since its creation in 1997, the Special Diabetes Program has brought nearly \$18 million to the tribal communities of North Dakota to fight diabetes.

“Because of the research funded by Special Diabetes Program, people with type 1 diabetes have better treatments for this difficult disease and renewed hope for a cure,” said Cynthia Rice, Vice President of Government Relations for JDRF. “We are tremendously grateful to Senator Dorgan for all he is doing to renew the program this year.”

“Diabetes has reached epidemic proportions in the United States. The American Diabetes Association is grateful to Senator Dorgan’s efforts to stop diabetes through his unwavering support of Special Diabetes Programs. With this federal funding we have made advances in the fight to stop diabetes and continued funding for this program is vital to find new ways to prevent, treat and eventually cure diabetes.” Shereen Arent, Executive Vice President of Government Affairs and Advocacy for the American Diabetes Association.

“Diabetes places a disproportionate burden on Indian people across this country,” noted Stacy Bohlen, Executive Director of the National Indian Health Board. “However, as a result of programs supported by the Special Diabetes Program and Senator Dorgan’s leadership in ensuring this program continues, the Tribes are beginning to turn the tide of this devastating disease.”

“Diabetes is a huge health problem in this country, and the number of people with diabetes keeps growing,” said U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan. “I am happy to have been able to help direct funding where it’s needed to combat this serious health condition, and will continue to work to strengthen those efforts.”

About the Special Diabetes Program

Established by Congress in 1997, the Special Diabetes Program includes two programs – the Special Statutory Funding Program for Type 1 diabetes which funds diabetes research through the National Institutes of Health, and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians which funds diabetes prevention, treatment and education programs for Native Americans and Alaska Natives through the Indian Health Service. Each program is currently funded at \$150 million annually through fiscal year 2011 and will expire if not renewed. In March 2010, Senator Dorgan introduced S. 3058 to renew the Special Diabetes Program through 2016. This legislation has achieved broad, bi-partisan support with 60 cosponsors in the Senate.

About the American Diabetes Association:

The American Diabetes Association is leading the fight to stop diabetes and its deadly consequences and fighting for those affected by diabetes. The Association funds research to prevent, cure and manage diabetes; delivers services to hundreds of communities; provides objective and credible information; and gives voice to those denied their rights because of diabetes. Founded in 1940, our mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes. For more information please call the American Diabetes Association at 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383) or visit www.diabetes.org. Information from both these sources is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

About JDRF

JDRF is the worldwide leader for research to cure type 1 diabetes. It sets the global agenda for diabetes research, and is the largest charitable funder and advocate of diabetes science worldwide.

The mission of JDRF is to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research. Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease that strikes children and adults suddenly, and can be fatal. Until a cure is found, people with type 1 diabetes have to test their blood sugar and give themselves insulin injections multiple times or use a pump – each day, every day of their lives. And even with that intensive care, insulin is not a cure for diabetes, nor does it prevent its eventual and devastating complications, which may include kidney failure, blindness, heart disease, stroke, and amputation.

Since its founding in 1970 by parents of children with type 1 diabetes, JDRF has awarded more than \$1.3 billion to worldwide diabetes research, including more than \$107 million last year. For more information, call 1-800-533-CURE (1-800-533-2873) or visit www.jdrf.org.

About NIHB

Established in 1972, National Indian Health Board serves Federally Recognized American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribal governments by advocating for the improvement of health care delivery to AI/ANs, as well as upholding the federal government's trust responsibility to AI/ANs. NIHB strives to advance the level and quality of health care and the adequacy of funding for health services that are operated by the IHS, programs operated directly by Tribal Governments, and other programs. NIHB's Board Members represent each of the twelve Areas of IHS and are elected at-large by the respective Tribal Governmental Officials within their Area. NIHB is the only national organization solely devoted to the improvement of Indian health care on behalf of the Tribes.