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Office of the Director, NIH

In light of the enormous human and economic costs of diabetes, and the fact that diabetes research is funded in many of the Institutes, the Committee urges the Director of NIH, in collaboration with the Director of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), to establish a Diabetes Research Working Group to develop a comprehensive plan for NIH-funded diabetes research. The NIDDK section of this report describes in more detail the composition of the Working Group and its mission.

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).

Diabetes affects 16 million Americans and is a leading cause of blindness, kidney disease, heart disease, and amputations. According to recent estimates, diabetes costs society over \$130 billion per year. Given the enormous human and economic costs of diabetes, the Committee urges the Director of the Institute to work closely with the Director of NIH in establishing a Diabetes Research Working Group to develop a comprehensive plan for all NIH-funded diabetes research efforts. This plan should recommend future diabetes research initiatives and directions. The Working Group should submit its plan to Congress within twelve months of the enactment of this appropriations bill. The Director of NIH is urged to appoint a non-NIH member of the Working Group as its chairman. Members of the Working Group should include high-level representatives from the NIH Institutes that have substantial diabetes research portfolios. Other members should include leading diabetes researchers, representatives from industry, and leaders of organizations that represent people with diabetes. The Director of NIDDK and the Diabetes Mellitus Interagency Coordinating Committee should work closely with the Working Group in the development and implementation of the diabetes research plan.