

**Testimony of**

**Hannah Ryder  
Age 11, JDRF Children's Congress Delegate  
Cumberland, ME**

**At the Hearing entitled**

**"Type 1 Diabetes Research: Real Progress and Real Hope for a Cure"**

**Wednesday, June 24, 2009, 9:00 a.m.**

**Before the**

**Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs**

Thank you for inviting me to testify. I'm Hannah Ryder and I'm from Cumberland, Maine. Three years ago my life changed forever when I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

After being in the hospital for 4 days I hoped I was cured when I got to go home. But I soon figured out that this wasn't going to go away when my parents kept checking my blood sugar and giving me shots and measuring all of my food and everyone kept asking how I was feeling. Before I could go to school or play on a sports team or join a club we had to have meetings with the nurse, teachers, coaches, and anyone else that my parents thought could help keep me safe. Sometimes I don't like all the attention. But I know it is the attention that is going to keep me safe and it is attention like this that is going to help find a cure.

Diabetes not only affects me physically, it affects me emotionally as well. Sometimes I get mad; especially when people say things like that I'm lucky I missed a class because my blood sugar got too low. Or I get sad when people eat some of my favorite foods and say how good they are and I can't eat them because I have celiac, which a lot of people with type 1 diabetes have too. But I feel happy to have family and friends that help me out, like with my walk team, Hannah's Heroes.

This year my team did a bunch of fundraisers. We walked in the diabetes walk, had a yard sale with all of the toys and stuff that my sisters, brother and I don't use anymore, we sold lemonade at a parade and we had a bake sale. So far we have raised over \$5,000. I hope that we raised enough money with our team and I hope that Congress gives scientists the rest of the money that they need because I really don't want other kids to get diabetes.

In school this year I had to write a paper about what I would do if I was the President of the United States. One thing that I said I would do is have more walks to raise money to help find a cure for diseases like diabetes. My Mom said that a cure could be found soon and that doctors and scientists get the money that they need to work on it from walks and from Congress. So I'm doing my part and my family and friends are too.

Someday I hope to go to culinary school and open my own restaurant. I'm really hoping that there won't be a need to include carbohydrate counts on the menu!

Thank you Members of the Committee and particularly my Senator -- Senator Collins -- for helping in the fight to cure type 1 diabetes. Please keep up the good work and I will too.