

**Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Hearing:  
“Transforming Lives through Diabetes Research”  
June 22, 2011**

**Opening Remarks Senator Scott Brown**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for holding this hearing today in conjunction with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation’s (JDRF) 2011 Children’s Congress. On numerous occasions, I have taken the time to meet with MA constituents, patient-advocates and researchers to learn more about the daily challenges in the diabetes community, but also of the important research efforts, that I am very proud of, happening in the Commonwealth. The numbers are certainly convincing—diabetes continues to be an important health issue, with nearly 26 million people diagnosed in the United States and in Massachusetts approximately 360,000 residents or about 6.8 percent of the population diagnosed with diabetes.

Among chronic diseases, diabetes is one of the costliest. One in every three Medicare dollars is spent treating people with diabetes and in 2007, diabetes accounted for \$174 billion in health costs for the U.S. In Massachusetts alone, the indirect cost of diabetes care was roughly \$4.32 billion dollars in 2007. And with the numbers of people living with diabetes increasing, we know that the health care costs will continue to grow. In this tough economic climate, I think that the numbers supporting NIH and preventative health research investments demonstrate the cost effectiveness of research. That is why, along with several of my colleagues here today, I remain committed to support robust funding for the National Institutes of Health.

Earlier today, I enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the four impressive children from Massachusetts participating in this year’s Congress. They took the time to share their personal stories and describe the struggles they face on a daily basis. With their stories in mind and the FDA’s recent release of the artificial pancreas draft guidance, it’s great we have Dr. Zimlik and Dr. Rodgers with us because I believe this is an important step forward in improving the lives of all children living with Type 1 diabetes. Like many of the people here today, diabetes has touched both my family and friends. Therefore, I will continue to support the diabetes research and treatment efforts of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the NIH, and Children’s Hospital in Boston to improve the lives of those living with diabetes.