

**Testimony of Jonathan Platt**

**Age 7, JDRF Children's Congress Delegate**

**from Tarzana, California**

**At the Hearing entitled:**

**“Transforming Lives Through Diabetes Research”**

**Wednesday, June 22, 2011, 1:30 p.m.**

**Before the Senate Committee on**

**Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs**

**G-50 Dirksen Senate Office Building**

**Washington, D.C.**

Hello, Chairwoman Collins and other Members of the Committee.

Thank you for inviting me to testify. My name is Jonathan Platt. I am from Tarzana, California, a suburb of Los Angeles. I am seven years old.

I was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at age 6. I had been losing weight, wetting the bed at night and had extreme thirst. I was always tired and very emotional. My Mom and Dad thought I was just adjusting to a new school and kindergarten. My blood sugar was over 650 when I was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes.

I will never forget the day I was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes. We found out later that the little red headed girl who rode up in the elevator with us was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes also. That had never happened before at this doctor's office, two kids diagnosed at the same time. I was thinking how did I get this disease. I didn't know what it was. I was very scared and nervous.

I am here as a Children's Congress delegate to tell you that I manage my disease, but I do not let it control my life. With this disease, I am able to swim, play basketball, and build legos. But I am different.

Unlike other kids, I have to check my sugar 8 to 10 times a day. Everything I eat is measured and every carbohydrate counted. My blood sugar kit, juice, glucagon and ketone strips go with me everywhere I go.

It is hard when I go to summer camp, do a sleep over or even go to a friend's house. Too much exercise or not eating all my food can be very dangerous. I think I am too young to have to worry about all this stuff!

My parents have had to adjust their life because of my diabetes, but they say we all have it, not just me. Managing diabetes is a 24 hour job. We are doing our part to help find a cure by raising money for the JDRF Walk. I am here to ask you to continue to do your part and fund research to find a cure.

A cure for diabetes means that I could go to any summer camp and have sleepovers whenever and wherever I want. It means I could be a regular kid again. Most of all, it would mean I would not have diabetes.

Please help me make this possible. My life depends on it.

Thank you.