

## TESTIMONY



**Testimony**  
**By**  
**James Robbins**  
**President and CEO – Cox Communications**  
**Before the**  
**Senate Permanent Subcommittee on**  
**Investigations**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am here today because my daughter, Peyson, lives with diabetes and has done so since she was a youngster. Peyson has developed into a wonderful young adult, works in the stimulating atmosphere of New York City and looks forward to building her own family someday. But I was reminded of what is involved in maintaining a life with diabetes when we recently took a family vacation together. While I am filled with admiration for her, I also have deep concerns about her future. There are no two ways about it; diabetes compromises one's future.

You have heard from Drs. Auchincloss and Spiegel that we are at a critical juncture in diabetes research. The interdisciplinary approach, drawing researchers from various disciplines to attack a problem, is working. Islet cell transplantation is moving forward rapidly, and stem cell research stands to move us to the next level of making this research available to all people with diabetes, including our children.

As a person who has been involved in corporate leadership most of my life, I know that investments based on strategic initiatives pay off, and I am here today to applaud your support of medical research and to seek further assurances that we, as a society, will explore all scientifically-sound research to find a cure. The main thrusts of diabetes-related research fall within the areas of transplantation and immunology, and breakthroughs promise broad benefits. I implore you, therefore, not only to maintain your long-term support of medical research, in an environment admittedly oriented toward the immediate, but to increase your commitment.

What this could mean to society is far-reaching, and would provide the ultimate gift we could provide our children – an even playing field, hope for tomorrow, and a future toward which they can build their lives.

I commit to you today that I will work at your side to bring this about and feel confident that I can offer the same commitment from fellow parents of children with diabetes. In a civil society, we can do no less.

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