



February 8, 2008

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the Ninth Annual International Diamond Blackfan Anemia (DBA) Consensus Conference.

Last year, I commended you on your commitment to making it a priority to attend this important conference each year to focus your efforts and share your findings with each other to improve DBA research initiatives and increase viable treatment options for the children and families living with DBA. After hearing of the significant advancements that have been achieved in just the last year alone, I believe it goes without saying that everyone in attendance should be very proud of your work and the substantial impact you have made in this important area of disease research.

The continued discovery of new DBA genes and the further understanding of the implications of ribosomal protein deficiencies to blood disorders such as DBA and Myelodysplasia (MDS), and potentially many other diseases that affect millions of Americans have proven groundbreaking and represent a true testament to the great importance of your efforts and your continued collaboration with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases; the National Cancer Institute; and the Center for Disease Control. This collaborated effort advanced both clinical and disease research initiatives.

It is my hope that your hard work will one day lead to a cure for DBA and continue to yield advancements in the understanding of blood disorders, cancer, and birth defects. I thank the Daniella Maria Arturi Foundation and Diamond Blackfan Anemia Foundation for their substantial support of the research efforts and for continuing to host this important conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hillary Rodham Clinton".

Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senator