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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3204

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Dear DBA Conference Participants:

Each year I take great pleasure in welcoming your impressive and growing group of acclaimed clinical and laboratory investigators as you come together to share your findings and collaborate to advance the understanding of Diamond Blackfan Anemia. This year is no exception as I sincerely welcome you to the Ninth Annual International Diamond Blackfan Anemia Consensus Conference.

The importance of your work is evidenced in the tremendous advancements that are resulting from your collective initiatives as they bring you closer to a cure for DBA while also uncovering clues into other widespread diseases. The National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have recognized for years the great value in supporting DBA initiatives which have yielded valuable insights into the biology of blood disorders, blood cell formation, leukemia, the genetics of birth defects and more. The exciting new areas of science that are being explored following the identification of DBA as the first human disease linked to a ribosomal protein deficiency is an important example of the profound value of these initiatives and the justification for their continued support.

This year, the United States House of Representatives formally acknowledged your scientific and clinical achievements and praised the NIH and CDC for the foresight demonstrated in their active involvement. I was honored to introduce House Resolution 524, expressing the sense of Congress regarding Diamond Blackfan Anemia. One hundred and seven of my congressional colleagues joined me in supporting this important legislation, which we passed on October 15, 2007. Together we stand to applaud your dedication to the important DBA research and outreach initiatives you are pursuing and encourage your continued collaboration, which has truly become a model for how the public and private sector can work together to make significant strides in multiple disease areas.

In this spirit, I continue to thank the Daniella Maria Arturi Foundation and the Diamond Blackfan Anemia Foundation for the time and resources you provide each year to ensure this meeting continues to grow and inspire such remarkable progress. I look forward to learning about the results of this year's conference and your advancements throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress

