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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802  
specter.senate.gov

March 11, 2006

Dear DBA Conference Participants:

Welcome to the Seventh Annual International Diamond Blackfan Anemia (DBA) Consensus Conference. I commend you for your commitment and dedication to improving the lives of the patients and families living with DBA.

I am pleased to learn that your contributions, including the progress you have made in developing comprehensive clinical care guidelines, are enabling a better quality of life for those affected with DBA. I am hopeful that the continuation of the Center for Disease Control's DBA Public Health Outreach and Surveillance Program and the support being provided by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases will lead to further understanding of DBA. I am also hopeful that this research may be able to help, not only DBA patients, but other diseases that affect millions of Americans such as cancer and birth defects.

Thank you for making DBA a priority not only during the three days you attend this conference but in your daily work throughout the year. Your efforts are yielding tremendous advancements in both the research to find a cure for DBA, as well as, improving the treatment and care for patients living with this disorder and other rare bone marrow failures.

I also extend my appreciation to the Daniella Maria Arturi Foundation for their DBA advocacy efforts and for providing the opportunity and resources for this annual conference.

Sincerely,

  
Arlen Specter