

**Windy City Whispers**  
**67th Scientific Sessions American Diabetes Association**  
**June 2007**

**Diabetes in Schools**

Dr. Deeb also talked about the school care gap in the United States. He pointed out that there are many patients who are afraid to attend public school because they are worried about their medical safety. The ADA is working on the Safe at School campaign. It's goals are to educate personnel, negotiate with schools (for insulin delivery among other things), litigate if necessary and particularly legislate. Dr. Kaufmann on the Council on Youth also emphasized the Safe at School program. Our children must be safe medically when they are at school, and deserve and have the right to the same access to educational opportunities as other non-diabetic children. She mentioned the law suit in California that just recently ensured that children will get insulin in school in an appropriate way. There are comprehensive bills in 17 states to do the same. *Unfortunately, Utah is not one of them. She recommended a web site [www.diabetes.org/schooldiscrimination](http://www.diabetes.org/schooldiscrimination) for those of you who would be interested to be involved.*

Finally, Dr. Deeb talked about the research challenge. He pointed out that the diabetes research funding has been flat for several years despite an increase in the prevalence of diabetes of 30%. Under the Bush administration less than 1% of the NIH budget is allocated to diabetes. He was hoping that things might change with a change in administration. *This brings up the point that we should always know how our elected officials see diabetes and the medical crisis that it is. We can't just assume that they see the light and will provide the funding necessary for diabetes. We all need to be advocates and press the point to all of our elected officials. Likewise, we need to be aware of the crisis for CHIP. This is the Children's Health Insurance Program and is for children who are un-insured and whose families cannot afford insurance. CHIP has provided for many of our patients over the years and President Bush is in the process of vetoing any increase in its services. This will leave many millions of children without adequate medical access. Again, we need to rally for the people who are less fortunate than ourselves.*