

**The Honorable Elizabeth Furse**  
U.S. Representative of Oregon (1993–1999)

**Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

**Congressional Diabetes Caucus**

Representative Furse describes the creation of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus.  
*Interview recorded June 8, 2017*

I started the Diabetes Caucus in the Congress, and we ended up where I think there are now 300 Members of that caucus. My daughter has diabetes and the cost for people with diabetes is just extraordinary, and so we, I put forward a bill with the caucus, the Diabetes Caucus, to raise the amounts of money we put into things like, oh, insulin, things like those sorts of things that are essential to diabetics, but are very hard to obtain, and we doubled the amount. We put a bill through and we doubled the amount of funding to diabetes, not just research, but also to training medical personnel because diabetes is an extremely complicated condition. So that, I worked very, very hard on that, and Diana DeGette from Colorado, she became a chair of that caucus. So, those, that was an issue, it wasn't just women's health, but it was women are so affected by diabetes, so are we all, but it was easy to get a caucus because if you say diabetes, I can tell you that everybody in the room nods because they know somebody with it—and once you know somebody with diabetes and you think, "Ah, yes." And that was a wonderful thing for us. I went to the President's signing. My daughter came—it was, it was very uplifting for somebody like her, who has diabetes.