



## About Children's Congress '07

*Children's Congress will take place on June 17-20, 2007 in Washington, D.C.*

Five Michigan youth are among the 150 children from throughout the U.S. selected to represent their state on Capital Hill to remind Congress and the Administration of the critical need to find a cure for a disease they live with every day—type 1 (juvenile) diabetes.

These children, ages 4 to 17, will converge on Washington D.C., to tell their stories and urge lawmakers to help find a cure. Alexis Horton, age 6, West Olive; Sophie Thompson, age 6, Grand Rapids; Gabriel Reslock, age 9, Grand Ledge; Tre' Hawkins, age 12, Detroit; and Joshua Tufts, age 7, Flat Rock; have been named as delegates representing Michigan in the Children's Congress.

Before heading to Washington, D.C., the five delegates will travel to Lansing on Tuesday, June 12 to accept a proclamation declaring June 17-23 as Juvenile Diabetes Awareness Week. The proclamation, signed by Governor Jennifer Granholm, will be presented by Michael Sak-D, speaker pro tempore for the House of Representatives.

Led by JDRF International Chairperson Mary Tyler Moore, JDRF's Children's Congress 2007 will include Congressional visits by the child delegates and a Senate hearing where Moore, select child delegates, researchers, and business and community leaders will testify on the need for continued funding for research on diabetes and related complications. Moore and the child delegates, under the theme of "Promise to Remember Me," will ask Members of Congress to support an increase in federal funding for diabetes research.

The JDRF Children's Congress program was inspired by a boy from Massachusetts named Tommy Solo when he was 8 years old. He heard some adult JDRF volunteers talking about going to Washington, D.C., to talk to Congress and thought it would be great if kids could go, too, because no one knows better what it's like to live with type 1 diabetes than kids who have it.

The group of volunteers thought it was a brilliant idea and quickly got to work developing the event, which was first held in 1999. Since then, four successful Children's Congresses have occurred, one every other year (1999, 2001, 2003, and 2005).