

# Type I Diabetes License Plate

House Bill 11-1166

*Proposed by Girl Scout Troop 193 of Highlands Ranch, Colorado*

## The Faces of Type I Diabetes



Bret Michaels



Sonya Sotomayor

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Source: <http://www.everydayhealth.com/diabetes/photos/celebrities-with-type-1-diabetes/>

## How We Got Here

Our troop has been working for about 2 years on making this license plate possible. We have collected thousands of signatures at diabetes events and entered them all into the computer. We've completed many other steps to get here as well.

Our desire for a type I diabetes license plate is personal. One of our members, Jessica, has had the disease for about 9 years. We've all watched her administer medicine to herself and go through good and bad blood sugars. We all want to support her in finding a cure, and we believe that raising awareness with a license plate could help reach a cure sooner.





## About Troop 193

Our troop has been together since Kindergarten. We have continued our Girl Scout troop for 10 years and plan on continuing throughout the rest of high school as well. Currently, our troop consists of Nicole Alfonso, Chloe Elder, Amanda Emmelkamp, Jessica McFerrin, and Hannah Koeppen (not pictured). While the different members continue to develop their own interests, we have stayed strong as a troop and have a very special bond. We are now considered seniors in Girl Scout ranks.



## What Is Type I Diabetes?

Type I diabetes occurs when the body's immune system attacks and destroys certain cells in the pancreas, an organ about the size of a hand that is located behind the lower part of the stomach. These cells -- called beta cells -- are contained, along with other types of cells, within small islands of endocrine cells called the pancreatic islets. Beta cells normally produce insulin, a hormone that helps the body move the glucose contained in food into cells throughout the body, which use it for energy. But when the beta cells are destroyed, no insulin can be produced, and the glucose stays in the blood instead, where it can cause serious damage to all the organ systems of the body.

For this reason, people with type I diabetes must take insulin in order to stay alive. This means undergoing multiple injections daily, or having insulin delivered through an insulin pump, and testing their blood sugar by pricking their fingers for blood six or more times a day. People with diabetes must also carefully balance their food intake and their exercise to regulate their blood sugar levels, in an attempt to avoid hypoglycemic (low blood sugar) and hyperglycemic (high blood sugar) reactions, which can be life threatening.

Source: <http://www.jdrf.org>



## Diabetes Statistics

- Even with insulin, juvenile diabetes usually results in a drastic reduction in quality of life and shortens the average life span by 15 years.
- Each year approximately 30,000 Americans are diagnosed with juvenile diabetes, over 13,000 of whom are children. That's 35 children each and every day.
- 1 in 400 adolescents has type I diabetes.
- In adults, type I diabetes accounts for 5 to 10 percent of all diagnosed cases of diabetes.

"Ask people who have juvenile diabetes. It's difficult. It's upsetting. It's life threatening. It doesn't go away."

-- Actress Mary Tyler Moore,  
JDRF's  
International Chairman

