

**Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International
Children's Congress
Remarks of
FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell
Monday, June 23, 2003**

I am happy to be here with all of you, standing among these bright colored faces that have brought us to be here. We are not here just because it is fun. We are not here because it is a rare sunny day in Washington. We are not here because we had nothing better to do.

We are here because we are compelled to be here—compelled by our consuming love for the world's most precious resource, our children. We are here to reignite our commitment to rid our children of the scourge that robs and cheats too many of them of a carefree youth.

There are many causes and many bandwagons one can hop on. This train travels a journey that has a clear destination in site. A promised place where juvenile diabetes thrives no more, struck down by our collective efforts. Islet transplantation is one of the promising routes to a cure, but much more research needs to be done to make it a viable treatment for children.

But like every vehicle, this one needs fuel to get where it is going. That fuel is money—the funds to stoke the research that is closing in on a cure. We lift up our voices to our government for more funds to eradicate juvenile diabetes and urge passage of the Pancreatic Islet Cell Transplantation Act. We lift up our voices as well to our fellow citizens to support this journey with their generous gifts.

If any of you, governor or citizen, helps in this crusade, you surely will be rewarded by seeing the fruits of your labor and your coin. And when the curtain on your life closes, and you stand before your creator as he asks what worthy deed you did while on earth. You will answer with your head raised high; I saved the life a child.

Carry this message forward and sing it loud and strong.

Good luck and God Speed.