

## Diabetes fears bring response

### 500 join Boren in urging Legislature to fund research center

By Michael McNutt, Capitol Bureau

Had their son not suffered a diabetic attack nearly a year ago, Kirk and Janet Holloway of Chandler would not have traveled Monday to the state Capitol.

Their son, Jonathan, then 14, nearly died from the incident.

Monday, the family was among more than 500 people who came to show the seriousness of the disease and to support efforts to build a diabetes research center.

The galleries in the House of Representatives and Senate chambers were filled with observers wearing red T-shirts

as the legislative bodies passed a resolution declaring it Diabetes Awareness Day in Oklahoma. More importantly, the resolution declared the state's commitment to becoming the national model in research and treatment of the disease.

One in 10 Oklahomans suffers from diabetes and one of every three children born today in the United States will suffer from diabetes during their lifetime, said David Boren, president of the University of Oklahoma.

Boren, who lost more than 60 pounds after learning he had diabetes last year, has become determined to do more to promote research and awareness across the state, which he said has the highest

per-capita diabetes cases.

OU is proposing to build a diabetes research and treatment center on its Oklahoma City and Tulsa campuses. The cost for both buildings is estimated at \$15 million.

A bill authorizing the money is waiting to be heard by the full House.

Kirk Holloway, a minister of music and education at First Baptist Church of Chandler, said he and his wife didn't realize their son's pancreas had stopped producing insulin until he had become nauseous and had trouble breathing in June. They rushed him to an area hospital.

"We came within two hours of losing him," he said.