

HB 1288: Medicaid Coverage for Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGM)

Senate Human Services Committee

Monday, March 8, 2021

Katynka Morrissette

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Katynka Morrissette and I am here to speak to you in favor of HB 1288. I am a mother of 3 young children who are affected by a metabolic condition called Glycogen Storage Disease who rely on Continuous Glucose Monitoring devices, or CGMs to help manage their disease.

My children have severe and sudden hypoglycemia due to their condition, and they wear a CGM device called a Dexcom to provide alerts to any changes in their glucose levels. The alarms have woken us up to a dangerously low glucose level at all hours of the night, so that my husband and I could respond quickly and get them corrected. Without their Dexcom, we have gone to get them from bed in the morning to find them unresponsive. Not only is this traumatic for our entire family, it is very costly to have anywhere from a 3-10-day hospital admission. We have been able to avoid many ER trips and admissions thanks to the life saving technology that gives us continuous and immediate readings of their blood sugar.

Patients with metabolic conditions or diabetes, particularly pediatric ones, often have what is called hypoglycemia unawareness. Our children for example, may have a sudden drop in blood sugar while playing on the swing set or riding their bike, and they are not aware that they are going into acidosis. Without a Dexcom, we would go to check their blood sugar a few hours later and find them in an already critical state needing medical intervention. With our Dexcom, they can run and play like typical kids and not be worried about being poked every few minutes for a finger stick. We can watch the trends and give them a snack before they are hypoglycemic or possibly even unconscious. These devices are truly life saving and medically necessary to protect growing kids from dangerous low or high blood sugar levels. They prevent costly hospital admissions due to glucose instability and are a necessary tool in properly managing glucose levels in patients who require daily monitoring.

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee I ask you today to pass HB 1288 and provide CGMs to pediatric patients on Medicaid, so that the necessary lifesaving technology is in the hands of families like ours and not one parent has to find their child unresponsive when it was preventable with this device. Thank you for your time and consideration in moving forward with this bill.