

January 20th, 2021

Testimony in Support of HB 1288

Human Services Committee

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Katynka Morrissette and I am here to request that HB 1288 regarding Medicaid coverage of Continuous Glucose monitoring devices pass, with a few minor changes. I have 3 young children with a rare metabolic disorder known as Glycogen Storage Disease or GSD. While diabetics also have severe hypoglycemic episodes, people with GSD have sudden and unpredictable drops in their glucose levels sometimes many times a day. These rapid fluctuations in their glucose levels can turn a typical afternoon into a medical emergency without warning. I am in favor of HB1288 being passed with an amendment to include the rare families in North Dakota like mine, because we have seen firsthand how life saving a continuous glucose monitoring device can be.

Our children wear Dexcom sensors and we have been alerted many times in the middle of the night to a hypoglycemic event and have been able to administer glucose and nutrition to keep our children safe and out of the hospital. Before our children wore these devices, they received 10 finger sticks per day for glucose checks, and we have gone to check their glucose in the morning to find them unresponsive. This type of event requires a multiple day hospital admission and costs anywhere between \$12,000 and \$35,000, and can be easily avoided with a CGM. If these devices can prevent even one hospitalization for a diabetic or patient with a metabolic disorder, they have more than paid for themselves for that year. If you have ever seen a child or even an adult have a hypoglycemic seizure or become unconscious, you know how absolutely vital these devices are in managing these conditions and how greatly they can improve the health and wellbeing of the wearer.

I am here today asking you to pass this bill so that diabetic patients as well as patients suffering from rare and complex disorders that require around the clock glucose monitoring, have the ability to live more safely and manage their diseases better. Chairman Weisz and other committee members, I would like to propose that the verbiage used in HB1288 includes an amendment as follows: “Medical assistance coverage, including Medicaid Expansion, must include coverage of a continuous glucose monitoring device for a covered individual with type I diabetes, or other metabolic condition that requires continuous glucose monitoring as ordered by a physician as medically necessary for the patient.” Thank you for your time and consideration in passing this bill to have positive impact on families like mine.

Katynka Morrissette