

House Bill 1288- In Support
Human Services Committee
67th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
March 8, 2021

Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee Members

My name is Donene Feist and I am the Executive Director for Family Voices of North Dakota. As the Director of Family Voices we have assisted many families who have a child or youth with diabetes.

I am also a member of the Medicaid Medical Advisory Committee and Services/Codes subcommittee which reviewed and evaluated requests of the CGM.

I stand to support House Bill 1288, which would provide coverage for continuous glucose monitors (CGM) for eligible Medicaid patients with Type 1 diabetes. A CGM provides continuous insight into glucose levels throughout the day and night. The device displays information about glucose speed and direction providing users additional information to help better manage their diabetes. A CGM automatically checks your glucose levels every 5 minutes and can display your glucose numbers in real-time on a compatible smart device or receiver.

A CGM has proven to be the best outpatient glycemic management system for reducing A1C Type 1 diabetes. Not only can CGM reduce A1C, numerous studies have shown it can also decrease time spent in hypoglycemia. It has been proven to be medically necessary as it tremendously increases the management of diabetes. For children and youth who are not always with a family member this is vital to decrease emergencies, lost school days, reduces the number of times a child/youth has to do blood glucose checks and the ability for children and youth to participate in self-care increases. The CGM increased sense of safety with children who cannot recognize or express symptoms of hypo- or hyperglycemia.

Many of the families who have spoken with us have children and youth who have diabetes that is difficult to control. A CGM would assist in the control of diabetes, alerting the child/youth early that their blood sugars changing and to act.

Let there be no mistake, this is a lifesaving device for children and youth who have diabetes. We should encourage this to be covered for those children and youth who receive Medicaid.

Thank you for your time.

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