

Dear Senator Lee, Representative Koppelman and Representative Schauer,

My name is Kasey Carlin and I am a mother of a child with Type 1 diabetes that resides in your district. I am writing to ask you to support Senate Bill 2183, which is the insulin drug and supply cost sharing limitation and formulary limitations bill, which I've linked below in this email.

My daughter was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes over seven years ago when she was three years old. We've been through many changes and challenges to do our best to maintain near normal blood sugars and provide her with the best opportunity to grow and be a healthy child and adult. However, this disease is at 24/7 disease that demands constant attention. We sacrifice sleep and work and money to manage this disease every day.

One thing that became very clear within days of her diagnosis was that this disease was going to be expensive to manage, and in the seven years we've been living with it, the expenses continue to rise. For a period of time, I never knew what our insulin costs were going to be from month to month. All I knew was to expect our copay to cost more than it did the month before, and that total cost was always in the hundreds of dollars. As my daughter has grown, her insulin needs continue to increase as well, which is also adding to increased costs.

Diabetes isn't just managed with insulin, it also requires many different supplies that include insulin pumps, pump cartridges, infusion sets, glucose monitors and strips, as well as supplies for a continuous glucose monitor system. We are currently only halfway through the first month of the year, and we've already reached our insurance deductible and have paid hundreds of dollars in co-insurance to afford just three month's worth of these supplies. The financial burden is tremendous. Additionally, I've often had to leave work to go to my daughter's school to help with some aspect of her diabetes management. Because of these work disruptions, I've had to pass on many opportunities which affected my trajectory towards promotion, thereby losing out on potential merit pay increases. This is a financial double whammy to our family. However, we are blessed to have good employment with good insurance benefits. I cannot imagine how families without the same benefits can manage the costs of this disease.

Diabetes treatment shouldn't just be for those who can afford it. It needs to be attainable for everyone. The passage of this bill would provide much needed assistance to the North Dakotans who need to access insulin and diabetes supplies. Eventually, my daughter will be an adult living with type 1 diabetes. She is going to need to use insulin for the rest of her life. Unless something changes, the financial burden to her will restrict her opportunities and dictate what type of employment she needs to obtain to have the financial means just to stay alive. Until drug prices are regulated on the federal level, North Dakota has the opportunity to help out its citizens with these costs, thus allowing them to live less financially stressful, healthy lives.

I've attached information that provides more information for the need of passage of this bill. I've also cc'd Danelle Johnson and Angela Kritzberger on this email as they are also Mother's of children with type 1 diabetes and are leading the support for this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Kasey Carlin

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<https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/67-2021/bill-index/bi2183.html>