

SB2140

Senate Human Services Committee

Senator Lee Chair

Senator Lee and Members of the Committee,

My name is Donene Feist and I am the Director for Family Voices of North Dakota. Our work as you know, includes working with families who have children and youth with disabilities and chronic health conditions.

We stand today in support of SB2140. We hear from families on a regular basis, medical treatment for insulin dependent diabetics skyrocketing in price making it most difficult and often inaccessible with the best of health insurance for many across North Dakota and the country.

It is the one medication with a 100% success rate in managing their chronic illness. Families have little to no choice. For some it may mean putting milk on the table to feed the family or pay for medication. Their children and youth simply cannot go without.

Since 1990 the cost of insulin has risen 1200%. This is not a choice for families. Many families have more than one child/youth who have a diabetes diagnosis. Children with diabetes visited the emergency room 2.5 times more often than children without it. Acute inpatient services were used nearly five times more often.

We support this legislation by making a monthly co-payment cap of \$25 for insulin and an additional \$25 co-payment cap for diabetes supplies for the patients who utilize insulin for their diabetes management.

While the federal government as you know passed legislation, it only addressed those on Medicare. Addressing this immediate need or the supply chain itself will address ensure affordability and accessibility for all North Dakotans. My fear for families is what happens, if they become unable to pay for this life sustaining medication. I cannot bear the thought.

Additionally, since this was heard last session, I have been diagnosed with diabetes myself and understand fully the cost that this disease incurs.

Please pass SB2140, let's protect our children and youth with diabetes

Donene Feist  
Family Voices of ND  
701-493-2634  
fvnd@drtel.net