

Good morning, Senator Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Brenda Stallman and I am the administrator of Traill District Health Unit, which provides public health services to Traill County, including the communities of Mayville, Portland, Hillsboro, Hatton, Reynolds, and Buxton.

I am providing testimony in support of SB 2140. Over 8% of ND's population has a known diagnosis of diabetes. No one facing the day-to-day struggles of keeping blood sugar levels at an optimal level that prevents sickness and life-altering complications should first have to choose between paying their utility/rent bills or paying for insulin. No parent should have to choose between feeding their family or monitoring their child's blood sugar level. These scenarios are real.

I know people who do have diabetic children and they are not only burdened with the current cost of life-dependent insulin and blood sugar monitoring supplies, but they also face the realistic danger that their children will be unable to pay for these items themselves when they are no longer covered by their parents' insurance.

Are you aware that some of the most used forms of insulin cost 10 times more in the United States than in any other developed country? I am grateful that newly passed federal legislation caps insulin costs for Medicare beneficiaries and millions of seniors will no longer have to decide between purchasing life-saving medication and putting food on the table.

We can do better by helping North Dakotans dependent on insulin and diabetic monitoring supplies by establishing caps on insulin costs passed on by insurance providers. Other states, including but not limited to, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, New Mexico, New York, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia have taken important steps in capping insulin costs for insured individuals.

I thank you for considering SB 2140 that can have significant impact on the quality of life, lowered risk for debilitating complications, and improved life expectancy for our diabetic citizens.