

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Stacey Poffenberger, and I am a proud resident of North Dakota and a state employee. I am also the mother of a child with type 1 diabetes, diagnosed at the age of six. Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition that necessitates daily insulin via an insulin pump or multiple daily injections to survive. Without insulin, my child, like many others, cannot live.

Insulin, developed approximately 100 years ago, has seen its cost skyrocket, making this lifesaving medication unaffordable for many North Dakotans, including my family. As a mother, I am deeply concerned about the future. My son, now 13, frequently expresses worry about how he will afford insulin as an adult. This constant anxiety is not just about his health but about his entire future.

In January 2023, I purchased a one-month supply of insulin for my son, and with NDPERS insurance, the out-of-pocket cost was \$254. The insulin cap bill passed last session was a monumental relief for us as a state employee family. A one-month supply of insulin dropped to \$25! It significantly eased our financial burden and provided much-needed peace of mind. However, it is crucial to extend this benefit to all North Dakotans.

Implementing an insulin cap for all residents would ensure that no one in our community has to choose between life-saving medication and other essential needs. It is a necessary step towards equity, health, and safety for everyone affected by this condition.

I strongly recommend and support the cap on out-of-pocket insulin costs for ALL North Dakotans. Insulin is the sole treatment for type 1 diabetes, and without it, individuals cannot live. Passing this bill will not only save lives but also provide much-needed stability and security for countless families like mine.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stacey Poffenberger

A concerned North Dakota citizen and mother of a child with type 1 diabetes