

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jessica and I am a wife, mother and resident of North Dakota. My husband, Erik is a Type 1 diabetic and has lived with this disease for over 28 years, since he was just 19 years old.

Throughout our marriage I have seen firsthand the daily struggles of living with diabetes; including watching what he eats and limiting carbs, battling the never ending highs & lows of his blood sugar, and navigating the insurance battle to ensure his insulin and diabetic supplies are covered.

There have been times when our out of pocket costs for insulin topped \$1,000, and that's not including the out of pocket expenses for syringes, pump supplies and the cost of an insulin pump.

Keeping in mind, the patent for insulin was sold for \$1 and was never intended for anyone to make a profit from, yet 100 years after the invention of insulin people are being forced to choose between paying for their live saving medication and paying for everything else they need to live.

I have also seen firsthand a friend lose her life because she was forced to ration her insulin because she could not afford it. Rationing insulin can result in permanent kidney damage and ultimately lead to more complications and death, which was the case for Shaina Odermann.. Shaina was just 37 years old at the time of her passing.

In honor of all North Dakotans currently fighting to stay alive with diabetes, I respectfully urge you to pass bill HB 1114 and cap the monthly cost of insulin at \$25.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jessica Lovell-Opdahl