

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter to express my strong support of House Bill 1114 – to provide a \$25/month cap on the amount that a member could be charged for insulin or other necessary diabetic supplies. As a constituent of North Dakota and the mother of a child living with Type 1 Diabetes, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating financial burden that the high cost of insulin places on individuals and families.

Insulin is a LIFE-SAVING medication for people with diabetes. It is NOT a luxury, but a NECESSITY. Without access to affordable insulin, people with diabetes face serious health complications, including blindness, kidney failure, and DEATH.

Our daughter had a blood glucose level of over 400 mg/dl (normal levels are between 70-100 mg/dl) when she was diagnosed at nine years old and she was in active Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA), all because her pancreas failed her and stopped producing insulin. DKA is a serious, life-threatening complication of diabetes, most common among people with Type 1 Diabetes. DKA develops when your body doesn't have enough insulin to convert sugar into energy, causing your liver to break down fat for fuel which then produces acids called ketones. Too many ketones being produced at a rapid rate build up to dangerous levels causing DKA. Our daughter, along with hundreds of other North Dakotans, literally CANNOT SURVIVE without affordable insulin.

The current cost of insulin is excessive and unsustainable for many people. It costs around \$5 to produce one vial of insulin. It is absolutely insane to be paying hundreds of dollars for a drug that costs \$5 to produce. No one should be forced to choose between their health and their financial well-being. A \$25 per month cap on insulin would make this essential medication more accessible and affordable, ensuring that people with diabetes can SAFELY manage their condition and live healthy lives.

I want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the approval of SB 2140 for ND PERS members during the 2023 legislative session. I am a current state employee and this cap on insulin for ND PERS members over the past year and a half has been a saving grace for our family, not only financially but also mentally and emotionally. It would be absolutely detrimental for this bill to end on June 30th, 2025.

I urge you to support this important bill and to make the health and well-being of your fellow North Dakotans a PRIORITY.

Thank you,

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