

Dear Senator Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1114, capping the price of insulin. My daughter, Della, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in December of 2017, just weeks after turning eleven years old. I remember vividly driving her to the emergency room on a Sunday evening. We had been decorating our Christmas tree, and after seeing some concerning symptoms in the previous weeks, I decided to check her blood sugar. It was abnormally high. My sister, who also has type 1 diabetes, advised us that we should not wait until morning. We would run the risk of her going into diabetic ketoacidosis, a life-threatening complication from lack of insulin. We were lucky - we caught it before she went into DKA and my daughter was started on insulin immediately.

No one can go without insulin. Not you, not me, not my daughter. Without insulin, our cells cannot use the glucose that our body needs to survive. The difference is that a person with T1D's life depends on manufactured insulin because the beta cells no longer function in their pancreas. If they are without insulin for more than a few hours they risk DKA and death. I urge you to think about that for a moment.

As a parent of a child with T1D, I will shoulder as much of this disease for my child as she would like me to, for as long as I am able. The reality is, though, that she is now eighteen years old. In just a few years, she will age out of our insurance coverage. What then? Will she have to choose between insulin and food? Will she have to ration her insulin so that she will have enough? Will she be able to afford to live? These are questions no one should have to face. I urge you to vote yes on House Bill 1114. People's lives depend on this.

Sincerely,
Erin Phillips
Parent of a child with type 1 diabetes
Fargo, North Dakota