

1/8/25

Please support HB 1114 to cap the cost of insulin in North Dakota. I support this bill because my son, Rhett (14), has been living with type 1 diabetes since he was 15 months old. There isn't a day that passes when we don't spend every hour thinking about his insulin needs to live-to be alive. We have lived in Fargo for the last 16 years and love our community and state.

Several years ago, we drove to Canada to purchase insulin for \$25 per vial when I had to pay over \$300 per vial because our North Dakota insurance company refused to pay for the insulin in the formulary he needed to survive. What if we couldn't do that? What if we had to ration our child's insulin? There are diabetics who have no choice because they cannot afford it. There are some who have died from rationing insulin and 1.3 million Americans reported rationing their insulin in a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control.

Type one diabetes is not a preventable condition, nor can it be something we can cure or easily control. Diabetes is debilitating without the financial strain of insulin, glucagon, supplies and additional costs associated with chronic conditions, such as clinic visits, hospitalizations, mental health care, family strain and around-the-clock focus to ensure our diabetic isn't having a high or low glucose emergency.

Nearly half of the states in our nation have voted in favor of affordable insulin for all of their residents. North Dakota trialed capping costs for the NDPERS group for 2 years and now it's time to expand this live saving bill by capping insulin for every ND citizen like the other 22 states.

Heroes save lives. I urge you to vote and be a hero for all of the suffering type 1 diabetics and families in North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Shantelle Smith