

March 7, 2023

Dear Committee,

My daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes almost 5 years ago when she was a couple of months shy of 2 years old. In addition to the daily struggles of management is the financial cost of obtaining insulin and other supplies needed to monitor her blood glucose numbers. My daughter will quite literally die within days without insulin, and it will be that way for the rest of her life. Having access to insulin, and being able to afford other supplies and technology to manage her blood glucose will result in her having a longer, healthier life. This can only make it more desirable for health insurance agencies to promote accessibility and affordability to this necessary medication to avoid individuals developing chronic and costly health complications. This is a disease that is not developed through any choices an individual makes, and cannot go away based on choice. Families and individuals should not have to suffer in order to keep their child alive so that pharmaceutical companies can make outrageous profits. While these caps on the cost of insulin may not solve problems for large groups of people to start, it opens the door and will eventually widen and create the productive and wide-ranging changes we need to see. Waiting to support a bill until it meets everyone's needs is not how change is made, it is made in small steps. The reason there is resistance to this is because it is obvious it is the start of great change that some groups who profit from these high drug costs don't want to see.

Amy Knudson

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