



Connected **for Life**

February 11, 2020

The Honorable Representative Salinas
House Committee on Healthcare
Hearing Room E
900 Court St NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for hearing HB 4073 in committee. The American Diabetes Association (ADA) understands the implementation challenges of a co-pay cap and support a change to a co-pay cap per prescription per month.

(ADA) recommends a \$50 or less co-pay per month, per prescription regardless of the number of the amount or type of insulin and that the cap is not subject to the deductible.

However, if \$75 is what you feel is the best Oregon can do to help people with diabetes struggling to pay for their insulin, we will support it.

As of today, CO and IL have enacted this legislation. In close to 40 states there is interest in this legislation, or it has already been introduced. Additionally, in MN, 2 health insurers (Medica and Ucare) have decided to cap insulin costs at \$25 a month for their patients and BCBS announced a zero copay cap for their patients on insulin.

Though many states have introduced it as a \$100 cap on insulin (either copay or cost sharing) most states have introduced the cap as less; examples of these are Utah at \$30 cap per prescription per month; Indiana at \$50 per month, West Virginia at \$25 per month, New Mexico \$25 per month and California at \$50 per month.

People with diabetes in Oregon are facing a crisis. A vial of insulin in 1996 had a list price of \$21. Today, that same bottle of insulin has a list price of over \$300. Advances in research and development and technology have been life-changing, but the chemical formulary for insulin has not changed in over two decades. People with diabetes are sometimes forced to choose between insulin and rent or insulin and food to survive. For those with type 1 diabetes like myself, this autoimmune disease is not preventable and has no cure.

If you have questions or would like to discuss this issue, please contact me at 1-800-676-4065 x 7207 or lkeller@diabetes.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Keller".

Laura Keller
Director State Government Affairs