

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Kelsey Duman and I live in Albany, Oregon. Today, I am writing to you on behalf of the diabetes community in support of HB 2623, limiting the cost of insulin. I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when I was seven years old. My first reaction to this diagnosis was an instantaneous fear that I was going to die. Take a moment to think about that: a seven year old, whose days were filled with basketball, tree forts, and dolls, was suddenly facing a life threatening condition. The doctors assured me that I would live a full life if I properly managed my diabetes. The only way to do so was full reliance on insulin.

Today, at age 28, I have found that the biggest challenge of living with diabetes is not the daily injections or the disorienting feeling of low blood sugars. It is the struggle to afford insulin. Over the past 12 years, I have worked in the nonprofit industry supporting thousands of families who face this same challenge. I continue to hear stories from parents who work three jobs to afford their child's insulin. I have friends with Type 1 diabetes who have been forced to choose whether to spend their money on insulin or their only meal for the day. My husband is a public high school teacher who also lives with Type 1 diabetes. A few years ago, he was uninsured for a month due to a change in job. His insulin supply for this month cost him more than double his monthly rent.

Enough is enough. Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease. Those who live these daily challenges did nothing to bring this upon themselves. Please join me in supporting the estimated 435,000 Oregonians living with diabetes by supporting HB 2623 to continue our fight against the rising costs of insulin. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Kelsey Duman

Lifelong Oregonian

Type 1 diabetic of 21 years

Wife to a Type 1 diabetic of 16 years