

Representative Rachel Prusak, Chair
Representative Cedric Hayden, Vice-Chair
Representative Andrea Salinas, Vice-Char
House Committee On Health Care

March 30, 2021

Testimony in Support of HB 2623

Dear Honorable Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and Members of the House Committee On Healthcare,

My name is Justine Lely and I live in Happy Valley, Oregon. I am testifying today in support of HB 2623, which would cap insulin copay costs.

I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes during my first year of college. Because my body cannot produce insulin on its own, I depend on taking insulin every day to stay alive and healthy. Without it, I would become life-threateningly ill and would need to be hospitalized. Worse, I could die.

For many Oregonians living with diabetes, access to insulin is a matter of life or death. No one should have to ration their insulin because they cannot afford it. No one should have to decide between paying for their life-sustaining medication or paying for that month's rent or food. No one should have to compromise their health or lose their life because they cannot afford the insulin they need to survive.

Oregon has an opportunity to take a step in the right direction and make insulin more affordable. I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2623.

Sincerely,

Justine Lely