

Testimony by Deanna Bascom, Person with Type 1 Diabetes.

I revise this for the Senate Committee on Health Care

NEUTRAL ON HB 2623 to cap the Cost of Insulin in Oregon.

I testified before the House Health committee on February 6, 2020 to support HB 4073, a bill similar to HB 2623. I advised the committee about the out of pocket costs those with type 1 and type 2 diabetes face to manage their illness and keep themselves alive. I advised that the \$35 cap on insulin would allow those people without insurance or with high deductibles to not have to make the hard decisions on whether to buy food, pay the rent or utilities. My testimony in for the House and Senate Health Committees 2021 has not changed, people are still struggling, especially during this pandemic, which makes HB 2623 even more important to get through this committee. This is important legislation that must be passed on the state level, and it is in your hands on whether this goes to the House for the first reading.

I implore this committee to not renegotiate this bill in favor of the insurance companies. They will not suffer if the cap is lowered to \$35 per month, per prescription. I have great insurance and my copay is \$75 per 10ml vial of insulin, which I need every 28 days (the retail cost of that same vial is \$362). HB 4073 was renegotiated to a cap of \$75 per prescription, per month. It was embarrassing and depressing to watch other states in our country pass similar legislation with the lower co-pay cap. Most will benefit from this lower cap, but some may not. I use a coupon to get my insulin cost down to \$25 per month, but you have to have commercial or employer provided insurance to do this. Those on Oregon Health Plan or Medicare do not qualify to use the coupons. Some states passed legislation with a cap at \$30 per prescription, per month, others went with \$100 cap on all insulin (some people with diabetes take more than one type of insulin) per month. I believe that the Oregon bill was flawed and there was a reason it did not make it through the 2020 legislative session.

All of you now have an opportunity to do the right thing for the approximately 435,000 Oregonians living with diabetes, myself included. I want to never read another story about anyone, especially an Oregonian, suffering in any way due to the high cost of insulin. I want to see this bill pass this committee, go through the house, rules committee and senate and the senate health committee and see the Governor sign it into law.

Nothing would be more amazing. Well, the only thing that would be truly amazing would be if a cure were found, then people with Type 1 like myself would never have to continue to testify to get this sort of legislation passed. So, since we're not testifying for a cure, it should be fairly easy to get this out of committee. Do your part, do what you were elected to do and serve in the best interest of Oregonians.