

Subject: Urgent Need for State Action on Insulin Affordability

Dear [Legislator's Name],

I urge you to act on the rising cost of insulin. This medication is lifesaving and millions of individuals depend on it. Over the past two decades, insulin prices have significantly increased, making it extremely difficult for individuals to afford their prescriptions. Many people do not have adequate insurance to cover the cost of insulin and its supplies. No one should have to ration medication or choose between insulin and other basic life necessities.

Eli Lilly's Insulin Value Program offers insulin for \$35 per month for eligible participants. However, approval rates are not made public, and many still face unaffordable costs. Without such programs, a vial of Humalog insulin costs between \$300 and \$400, while a box of Humalog KwikPens ranges from \$500 to \$600. Other programs are very similar to Eli Lilly's as well.

Federal price caps exist, but many still struggle with high deductibles and coverage gaps. Medicare Part B covers insulin for pump users at \$35 per month with no deductible. However, Medicare Part B does not cover syringes or needles, which fall under Part D along with other insulin types. Specifically, Medicaid assistance varies by state, resulting in differing eligibility and coverage limitations. State-level action is both crucial and necessary for closing these gaps and ensuring affordable access for all individuals.

One in three Medicare beneficiaries has diabetes, with 3.1 million individuals requiring insulin. Between 2014 and 2019, insulin prices rose over 50%, increasing the average annual cost from \$3,819 to \$5,917. Out-of-pocket costs in the covered phase rose by 18%, along with the annual expenses increasing by 11%. The "coverage gap" in Medicare Part D forces enrolled individuals to pay a percentage of the drug's cost until they reach catastrophic coverage. During this period, the price of insulins like Levemir skyrocketed by 165%. If current prices had remained at 2014 levels, reliant individual could have saved nearly 20% in annual costs.

Meanwhile, while many individuals are struggling to keep their heads above water, pharmaceutical executives continue to receive extreme compensation. Just in 2023, Eli Lilly's CEO, David Ricks, earned \$26.6 million, which was a 24% increase from the previous year, while other executives also earned millions. These figures contrast sharply with the financial burden placed on Americans struggling to afford necessary lifesaving medication.

Several states across the United States have implemented insulin price caps, emergency access programs, and heightened pharmaceutical pricing transparency. I urge you to consider similar actions in our state. By supporting legislation that lowers insulin prices, expands access programs, and holds pharmaceutical companies accountable, you can make a direct impact on public health and millions of people's lives.

I appreciate your time you have given to read the details on this urgent matter. I welcome the opportunity to discuss the crisis further. Please let me know how I can support efforts to advance insulin affordability for all individuals in our state.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]