

Hello,

My name is Brandy O'Brien and I am a part of the Connecticut chapter of insulin4all asking you to support affordable insulin legislation.

I want to offer you an outside perspective, because I am not a person affected by diabetes. Until four years ago, I didn't know anyone with the disease and my understanding of it was atrocious. I believed the stereotypes, thinking it was a self-inflicted ailment for overweight people.

Then, I met a phenomenal woman who is affected by type 1 diabetes and has been since childhood. She schooled me on bad information and introduced me to the #insulin4all movement. It is here I learned statistics and personal stories that make you wish fiction was stranger than truth.

Can you imagine having to regularly pay up to \$1,000 for medicine that costs only \$6 to manufacture? Or, accepting the responsibility that this condition can lead to blindness, heart or kidney disease, a stroke, or even death if it's not managed properly?

Maybe I'm getting too far ahead of myself. I'm not talking about a top 1 percenter, a celebrity making money hand over fist, who is opting to purchase a cosmetic procedure or a nice-to-have luxury item. I'm referring to someone a bit closer to home, an everyday citizen living in one of Connecticut's towns. Maybe someone like me, someone in Enfield.

Maybe, like me, this someone just lost her job on July 1 and is about to lose her medical insurance due to the COVID-19 pandemic when her company lost funding. Maybe this someone has to find a way to pay for a this ridiculously overpriced medication when unemployment insurance benefits are backlogged and she hasn't yet received a single payment. What happens when she has to make the decision between missing a mortgage payment or not getting the medication that literally keeps her alive until the next prescription. What happens when she chooses to eat less and ration her insulin to make it to the next month?

How long can she make these decisions? What will it cost her? Or, should she simply give up, visit her local emergency room and let Connecticut taxpayers be burdened with the cost that she can't afford?

How many times can **YOU** stomach this decision knowing it costs the pharmaceutical companies only \$6 to produce a single vial? Six dollars! That's like the price of an ice cream with sprinkles at Collins Creamery.

Sure, she can do without an ice cream and rainbow sprinkles. But, her mortgage?

When do you give up? Again, when does she give up?

I'm asking you, Connecticut legislators, do you get it yet? Or, do you simply not care because like me, you don't have diabetes?

Please support affordable insulin legislation.

Sincerely,
Brandy O'Brien