

LCO-3601 - AN ACT CONCERNING DIABETES AND HIGH^[1]_{SEP} DEDUCTABLE HEALTH PLANS
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Bunny Kasper Testimony
Feb. 25th, 2020

Chairman Lesser, Chairman Scanlon, Ranking Member Kelly, Ranking Member Pavalock-D'Amato, and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Bunny Kasper and I live in Hamden CT.

As a 77-year-old Type 1 Diabetic, a member of Insulin4All, a former Outreach Chair for JDRF, the leader of an Adult T1 support group and the grandmother of two Type 1s, I am here to support LCO-3601 on many different levels.

In the last few years we have seen many deaths in our senior and 26 year old Type1 communities. What could they possibly have in common that would be such a threat?
Simply the lack of affordable insulin.

Since my diagnosis in the 1990's, the cost of a vial of insulin has increased from \$29 to \$550!

Many seniors are living on fixed incomes.

They take more than one expensive medication as they deal with heart disease, crippling arthritis, dementia and other conditions associated with the aging process, as do their spouses.

At a time in their lives when seniors are most vulnerable and need our care and support the most, they are faced with life threatening choices in order to survive.

Many turn to rationing insulin, as it's cost is simply prohibitive.

They do not survive.

Our 26 year old Type 1s find themselves removed from their parents' insurance and are staggered by the insulin expense they must meet. Many try to stretch their insulin supply to their next paycheck or until their new insurance kicks in but like Alec Smith and Micah Fischer, do not live to see that day.

And they are not alone in this.

Shane Boyle, age 48, rationed his insulin to help save money to pay for his dying Mother's medical expenses. He died a few days after she passed.

Kayla Davis, age 28, tried to fill her prescription for insulin and rationed what she had while waiting for her physician to submit the necessary forms. She died one day before the approval came through.

They would not have died had there been a law in place that allowed a Pharmacist to fill emergency prescriptions and had the price been affordable so rationing was not necessary.

Let's make this very clear.

A recent Yale University study shows that 1 in 4 CT Type 1 Diabetics are forced to ration Insulin.

Rationing insulin is deadly.

It 's not a way to survive, but a way to die.

And many Type 1s are given no choice.

This has to stop.

My grandsons were diagnosed at 1 and 9 years old. My son worries about the costs of insulin and supplies for two Type 1s and I've watched his fear of losing a job with good insurance weigh heavily on him. Like all families of T1Ds, that constant fear of not being able to afford to pay for a liquid that literally keeps his sons alive is staggering and takes an enormous toll on the family. This should not be - especially when insulin costs \$4-\$6 to produce.

I have held Mothers in my arms who have lost their children to this disease; counseled families who were in a panic because they were losing their homes due to it's financial demands; lost a friend who left too soon from T1D complications; and carried a heavy heart and concern for my grandchildren who unfortunately inherited my Diabetes genetics.

To end these tragedies, we need LCO-3601 to pass.

I am speaking today to express my thanks to all who helped draft this bi-partisan bill and offer my support in your efforts to get LCO-3601 passed.

Thank you.

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