

When I was about 3 years old, I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes or T1D. Connecticut's healthcare workers saved my life by giving me my first injection of insulin. I learned at a young age that every day, those living with T1D must fight a never-ending series of terrifying battles to balance blood sugar levels. In every battle, our judgment of an insulin dose can help us or fatally hurt us. Our lives are constantly swung by a pendulum that hangs on over 40 variables that affect blood sugar. I would never wish these battles or this pendulum on anyone.

But for the sake of your constituents, I'm asking you to imagine that you are facing a traumatic T1D diagnosis. On top of the everyday needles and the looming possibility of seizures, add the variable of insulin pricing into this equation. Imagine the trauma of deciding between your survival and your bills. Feel the effects of high blood sugar because you must ration your insulin doses. Feel your blood becoming more acid-like as it slowly and fatally damages your organs and tissues. Think about the nausea, the headaches and the fatigue of your body shutting down. But most profoundly, know that there are hundreds of thousands living healthy lives with the exact same illness simply because they can afford to survive and take the correct doses of insulin. In fact, you don't have to imagine that part, you can just look me right in the eyes. Insulin pricing has led to death by a million preventable cuts for people just like me.

Not cuts to insulin manufacturer revenue. Not cuts to the outrageous prices for a drug which costs under \$5 to produce. Cuts to the dream of the discoverers of insulin who wanted every child surviving this medical burden to thrive, regardless of their income. Cuts to healthcare as a human right. Cuts to medical equity. Cuts to numerous personal and professional opportunities because the stories of our lives are limited by the burden of drug prices. Cuts to family members. Cuts to our dreams. Cuts to our humanity. Cuts to our lives. Cuts our government leaders could prevent.