

Dear Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee-

I am writing on behalf of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) to ask for your support for HB1307, which is being heard by your committee this week.

This bill, modeled after a Minnesota law, would establish an insulin safety net program for people with diabetes who require insulin to live. Colorado, like the rest of the country, has experienced a diabetes epidemic. Approximately 285,000 adults in Colorado have diagnosed diabetes, or more than 6.6% of the population. Many people with diabetes need insulin to live, and to avoid devastating long-term complications that can result in blindness, kidney failure, lower limb amputation, heart attack, stroke, and premature death. But too often, people with diabetes are struggling to afford the insulin their doctor has prescribed. The average price of insulin has skyrocketed in recent years, with some insulins tripling in price over a decade. The average vial of insulin now costs over \$300, yet the chemical formulary hasn't changed since the 1990s.

A pivotal study by Yale University found that in 2018, as many as [1 in 4 people](#) are rationing their insulin due to cost alone. This means they are skipping doses or are taking less insulin than they need to appropriately manage their diabetes. This threatens their health and their life. These numbers have only inevitably increased since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, where people with diabetes have been hit the hardest by job and health insurance losses. People who are uninsured and underinsured are most affected by the egregious cost of insulin in the United States.

HB1307 would establish two avenues of assistance for qualifying residents:

1. Urgent Need Program: A 30-day supply of insulin would be provided to a person for \$35 with an urgent need for insulin (having less than a 7-day supply on hand).
2. Continued Need Program: The second avenue would provide insulin for an ongoing need throughout the year. Under this initiative, a person would be able to access insulin for \$50 per month for up to 12 months.

Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs), currently one of the only emergency insulin programs currently available in the United States, are operated by the three main insulin manufacturers: Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk, and Sanofi. While these programs can help some people in some circumstances, they are wholly inadequate to address the growing insulin pricing and access crisis in our country. PAPs are not a permanent solution, can be revoked at any time, have lifetime caps on coverage and help, and often times have complicated eligibility criteria, long waiting periods, and slow approval times for people to get the insulin they so desperately need. We need a permanent solution in state statute to better address this issue and to save lives.

On behalf of people with diabetes, ADA urges you to support HB1307. With affordable insulin, people with diabetes are better positioned to manage their glucose levels to stay healthy and productive, out of the hospital, and away from expensive and potentially disabling and deadly complications. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Fallabel, MPH



Director of State Government Affairs
The American Diabetes Association
cfallabel@diabetes.org