



To:

**Senator Rhonda Fields, Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
03.26.2024**

Re: Support for SB24-061, Creating a Drug Donation Program

Dear members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

The American Diabetes Association is pleased to support SB24-061, legislation to create a drug donation program in the state of Colorado. This legislation will allow for pharmacists to facilitate the safe acceptance and re-dispensing of critical lifesaving medications for those who are under and uninsured, which are some of our state's most vulnerable populations.

The American Diabetes Association's mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people living with diabetes. There are over 300,000 Coloradans living with diabetes, and many require daily medications to live and thrive with their condition. Unfortunately, having timely access to that medication isn't always a guarantee.

When people with diabetes go without their needed medications, they may begin to ration them, and they can become very sick very quickly. This not only prevents them from participating in everyday activities like work and school, but it can also increase the risk of acute diabetes complications, including diabetic ketoacidosis, seizures, diabetic coma, cerebral edema, and death.

Overtime, the rationing of medications can lead to long-term diabetes complications, such as blindness, lower-limb amputations, heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, and premature death.

Simply put, people need reliable access to their medications in a timely manner, and Senate Bill 61 can meet the needs of people with diabetes to fill this gap when they either run out of their medication, there is drug shortage for a medication they need, they're unable to afford their medication, or their medication has expired.

SB24-061 not only will improve access to lifesaving medications for our most vulnerable populations, but it will also decrease waste in the healthcare system while lowering general healthcare costs. It is a win-win for our state.

We ask that you vote yes on SB24-061 for the health of all Coloradans. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Fallabel, MPH

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Christine Fallabel'.

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