



To:

**Representative Lindsey Daugherty, Chair  
House Health and Human Services Committee**

**04.15.2024**

**Re: Support for HB24-1438, Implement Prescription Drug Affordability Programs**

Dear members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

The American Diabetes Association is pleased to support HB24-1438, legislation to enforce the state's existing insulin affordability program as well as the state's emergency insulin program.

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 insulin injections to live and thrive with their condition. Unfortunately, having timely and affordable access to insulin isn't always a guarantee.

When people with diabetes go without their needed insulin, they may begin to ration it, 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 insulin 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 and affordable access to their medications in a timely manner. The cost of insulin in this country is still too high, and studies have shown that one in four people who take insulin still ration it because it is too expensive. People are still choosing between paying their rent and filling their insulin prescription, and this is unacceptable.

We were proud supporters of both HB19-1216 and HB21-1307, two bills that paved the way for more affordable and equitable insulin access in our state. HB24-1438 will work to ensure that these programs continue to work well so they can meet the needs of people with diabetes if and when they cannot afford their insulin.

HB24-1438 will uphold these lifesaving programs for people living with diabetes in our state, save lives, and make Colorado a more equitable place to live.

We ask that you vote yes on HB24-1438. 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

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