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House Committee on Healthcare
900 Court St.
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 4073 - Oregon Insulin Affordability Act

Dear Fellow Committee Members:

I am writing you as a Citizen of Oregon City, as a Mother who endlessly loves her son and in hopes that you will join me in supporting House Bill 4073 to limit the out of pocket costs for insulin.

My 18-year-old son, Jonathon Hernandez was recently diagnosed as a Type 1 Diabetic. As a mother, I can't even begin to tell you how agonizing it is to not be able to feel helpless. I was met with a roller coaster of emotions. Fear, Anger, Frustration, Guilt and Sadness. At one of my sons' appointments, one of his doctors told me that he better study a good career that can pay him well because insulin is expensive. I could not believe that a Doctor would say this, but unfortunately, she is right. How do you tell your 18-year-old son who just recently graduated, that he will need a lifesaving medication every day, but one day may not be able to afford it? How do you assure him that everything will be alright and give him hope?

One of the first things I did to help my son was to educate myself thru an online T1D support group. I quickly started to learn about the latest technology, the insurance loop holes and the outrageous costs of insulin. I read about people who can't afford their insulin. People who are rationing their insulin. People who are now living in their car because its either afford to pay rent or buy insulin. People who worry about losing their jobs for fear of losing their insurance. It scares me to think about what my son will face in the future.

I am here today because I promised my son that I would do everything in my power to help find a cure for T1D, to raise awareness and to help support affordable healthcare. My son called me his superhero. Please support House Bill 4073, for my son Jonny Hernandez... and for all my fellow Oregonians living with T1D and for the countless families affected by this chronic condition. Let's give them hope.

Respectfully,

Julie Hernandez