



9200 SE Sunnybrook Boulevard, #410 | Clackamas, OR 97015
1-866-554-5360 | Fax: 503-652-9933 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
aarp.org/or | oraarp@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpor
facebook.com/AARPOregon

**House Committee on Health Care
Testimony in Support of HB 4073
Andrea Meyer, Director of Government Relations
February 6, 2020**

AARP is pleased to support HB 4073. AARP is the nation’s largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With 510,000 members in Oregon, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment.

Sixty percent of likely voters age 50 and older report that prescription drug prices are unreasonable and many indicated they have had or will need to make trade-offs to afford their medication. HB 4073 sets an out-of-pocket limit of \$100 for a 30-day period supply of insulin. This proposal will make this life-essential drug more affordable and accessible.

Diabetes is one of the most common chronic diseases and according to the Centers on Disease Control and Prevention it is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. All people with type 1 diabetes and many with type 2 diabetes require insulin to survive. From 2009 to 2019, the price of insulin has tripled even though there’s been no change in the product.¹ The result is many people ration their doses or go without, often with deadly consequences.²

With the support of AARP Colorado, in 2019 Colorado became the first state to enact a law limiting out-of-pocket expenses on insulin to no more than \$100 per month and this past January, Illinois passed a similar law.

As this legislation will lead to people being able to afford life-saving medication, AARP Oregon urges this committee to pass HB 4073.

¹ <https://www.businessinsider.com/insulin-price-increased-last-decade-chart-2019-9>

² <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/business-news/rise-patients-dying-rationing-insulin-u-n-tries-new-solution-n1083816>