

March 22, 2021

TO: Senate Health Care Committee
FR: Cameron Locklear, Newport, OR
RE: In Support of SB 844

I am a 24-year-old from Newport, Oregon. When I was 13, I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Happening right at the tail end of middle school, I went into high school with a much higher level of responsibility than most of my classmates. Having to constantly manage sugar levels on top of all the other day to day activities one could expect from high school was exhausting physically and mentally.

It also became immediately apparent that this disease not only affects you physically, but also financially. Growing up, the cost of my insulin was a burden on my family. Sometimes a single month's worth of insulin would cost upwards of \$600. It sometimes meant that I had to cut out meals or ration out my remaining store because we didn't have enough money to pay for the next month's worth. For a normal middle class family that was already barely getting by, it was stressful having yet another, but mandatory, bill to meet each month for my parents.

We still experience much of that same stress. Now that I've moved out, I'm already living paycheck to paycheck with a full time 40 hours a week job, and another job I take shifts for on the weekends. Even with these two jobs, I still can't afford my insulin and have to rely on my parents to buy it for me. It's terrifying to me knowing I work sometimes 56 hours a week, and still can't afford insulin for myself. I'm very thankful and appreciative to my family for their continued support, but even then it's sometimes not enough. I often find myself only eating one meal a day.

This medication is a necessity, and I can't afford it. The cost of prescriptions are too high, and I urge this Committee to take my story and those of other Oregonians seriously. No one should have to work themselves to death to afford a medication that is saving their life. Please pass SB 844 to help lower the cost of prescriptions for Oregonians.