



Senate Committee on Health Care
Testimony in Support of HB 2623 A-Eng.
Andrea Meyer, Director of Government Relations
May 3, 2021

AARP is pleased to support HB 2623 A-Eng. 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 503,000 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 2623 sets an out-of-pocket limit of \$75 for a 30-day and \$225 for a 90-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 has 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 there are close to a dozen states that have now passed similar laws.

As this legislation will lead to people being able to afford life-saving medication, AARP Oregon urges this committee to pass HB 2623 A-Eng.

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>