



## From the Desk of Senator Deb Patterson

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) is writing to ask for your support for the insulin copay cap provision in Senate Bill 1508. The bill proposes lowering the total amount of cost sharing that an insured person is required to pay for insulin at an amount not to exceed \$35 per 30-day period, regardless of the amount or type of insulin needed. Currently, the insulin copay cap is \$85. The proposed \$35 is in line with Medicare. The bill also removes the requirement that the copay cap increases with the consumer price index.

People with diabetes are facing a crisis. Insulin prices have roughly tripled in the last 10 years for a medicine that is nearly 100 years old. Advances in research and development and technology have been life-changing, but the chemical formula for insulin has not changed since the 1990s. A vial of insulin in 1996 had a list price of \$21. Today, that same bottle of insulin has a list price of over \$300.

Without insulin, people with diabetes die and scaling back on insulin can lead to costly and sometimes deadly complications. Even before the pandemic, people with diabetes were sometimes forced to choose between paying for insulin and paying for other essentials like rent, utilities, or food for their families. ADA research has shown that, for one in four insulin users, cost has impacted their use.<sup>1</sup> Rationing or skipping doses of insulin is unsafe and can lead to costly and preventable emergency room and hospital visits.

As the leading organization whose mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes, the American Diabetes Association believes that no individual in need of insulin should ever go without it due to prohibitive costs.

We urge your support for SB 1508. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carissa Kemp  
Director of State Government Affairs  
American Diabetes Association

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<sup>1</sup> American Diabetes Association, Insulin Affordability Survey, 2018, available at <http://main.diabetes.org/dorg/PDFs/2018-insulin-affordability-survey.pdf>