

27 January 2026

The Honorable Susan Donovan
Chair, House Committee on Health & Human Services
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7075, H7188

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

My name is Patrick Sabatino. I am a resident of Narragansett, RI for 23 years, a father of two and an entrepreneur. I am also both a Type 1 Diabetic and the father of a Type 1 Diabetic.

Being a diabetic has a wide array of health issues. But often overlooked is that it is a very expensive chronic disease. Even though I have one of the best plans available through HealthSourceRI, my household still pays over \$9,000 a year out of pocket for prescriptions, insulin pump supplies and continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) supplies required for our two diabetics to stay alive. And I know this is worse for those who are not as fortunate as I to have a good insurance plan. These costs greatly impact a household finances, food budgets, discretionary spending and more. I know that I currently have two kids in college and we are spending more than we make. That difference is practically equal to the amount we spend on our diabetics medications and supplies.

Insulin, insulin pump supplies and CGM supplies are the overwhelming majority of the above mentioned costs. While the pancreas in a normal functioning body makes insulin as needed, people with T1D no longer can make insulin and must get their insulin via injections or insulin pumps. Insulin is not an option for people with T1D. Without it they will die within days to just over a week. Additionally there is a longer term benefit for those who have CGMs and insulin pumps. Proper glucose control in diabetics decreases the risk of heart disease, amputations, blindness, neurooathy and more. These are most impactful to those they afflict but they also reduce a burden on public health by reducing the occurrence of these ailments and their increased long term costs.

I strongly support H7188. This bill can have a massive impact on household that must curtail other spending due to the high cost of the required treatments. Additionally by ensuring that the best treatments are available to all diabetics without the burden of cost considerations not only are short term health outcomes of patients improve but the long term cost of healthcare benefits as well.

Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) has many risk factors but the most urgent risk is that of hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar. While your body can metabolize fats, proteins and carbohydrates, the latter of which creates glucose, the brain only uses glucose. Thus while high blood sugar over time can lead to the aforementioned risks of blindness, heart disease, amputation neuropathy and more, hypoglycemia can cause impairment, loss of consciousness and sudden death. While this is a risk for all diabetics, especially those who need to use insulin therapy, low blood sugar is an unfortunately more common side effect for those with T1D due to their absolute reliance on outside insulin and estimating the amount needed.

When hypoglycemia occurs it is paramount that blood sugar be raised immediately. If blood sugar falls below a certain point the patient becomes unconscious and they must receive an injection of glucose since they can no longer eat or drink. A patient in this state is at the highest risk for death and the need for glucose is urgent. Medical advances have made available a number of instantly actionable injectables and sprays that do not require any mixing or preparation, saving life saving time. Unfortunately due to the high cost of diabetes care many people do not have this lifesaving option on hand when they urgently need it.

I am fortunate enough where neither my son nor I have been unconscious and have required to use a glucagon pen or nasal spray but we both keep these life savings supplies on hand as they may save our life one day, as they have done countless other times for others.

Glucagon pens and similar nasal sprays are a vital part of the supplies every diabetic household needs. H7075 is an opportunity to help curb the cost of this required treatment, ensuring that every household with a diabetic has a lifesaving treatment option available when it is most urgently needed without the concern of wondering if they can afford it.

I greatly appreciate your attention to these two bills and hope our House and Senate will see the logic and benefits in support these two important efforts.

Be well,



Pat Sabatino
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