

Dear Chair Donovan and members of the Committee:

My name is Sarah Rosendale and I am writing today in support of House Bill 7075 (The Matthew Federico Diabetic Safety Act) and House Bill 7188.

On July 13, 2022, I brought my then 13 year-old son to the pediatrician, as my husband and I were concerned that the lack of energy and excessive fatigue he was demonstrating was due to anemia. Unfortunately, we were wrong. Instead, we were immediately sent to Hasbro Children's Hospital, where we would remain for the next 3 days.

Sam was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes that day, on the verge of DKA (diabetic ketoacidosis) and we were thrown into a world that we previously had very little knowledge of. While we are eternally grateful for the medical technologies available today, such as Continuous Glucose Monitors and Insulin Pumps, that allow Sam - now 17 years old - to live a healthy life, this is not without significant cost.

My husband and I are fortunate to have good health benefits available to us through our employers. But even with this coverage, the out of pockets expenses are significant, and growing daily. For example, we receive a supply of Continuous Glucose Monitors every 3 months. Prior to December 31, the cost for this was roughly \$1200 (with an out of pocket cost to us of approximately \$250). Today, I received a shipment confirmation for the same supplies that we last purchased in late October, and found that the cost for the shipment is now \$1500. While our medical policy has not changed, the cost to us will increase due to the price increase from the supplier.

This is just *one* of the supplies that we must have for our son. His pump supplies (insulin cartridges, infusion sets, etc) cost us roughly the same amount. And this does not include his glucometer and the supplies needed for that device. Nor does it include his Ketone meter, or its supplies (neither of which are even covered by our BCBS Policy). Nor does it include the lifesaving insulin prescriptions (of which he has 3), or the glucose tabs, juice boxes and other supplies that are critical when his blood glucose inevitably (and at times, unpredictably) drops too low. Finally, it does not include his Glucagon prescription, a prescription that could save his life, similar to the way in which an Epi-Pen could save the life of someone with a severe allergy.

While my husband and I are blessed enough to have the capacity to afford these things for him, it still puts strain on our family budget. And one of my biggest fears, as we move closer to Sam being out on his own, is that he will not have the resources to afford these things himself, particularly if he does not have access to medical coverage that helps to significantly offset the cost of the supplies that are critical to his survival. Untreated high blood sugars can cause DKA in as quickly as 24 hours, and can result in coma or even death. Access to supplies help increase rates of adherence to treatment plans, help to improve one's health and reduce the need for more expensive medical care, such as in-patient hospital care. No one should ever have to consider having to choose between crucial medical supplies and other basic needs, such as food, but unfortunately, this is the reality for many.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you vote to support House Bills 7075 and 7188.

Warmly,

Sarah Rosendale
North Kingstown, RI