

Dear Chair Murray and Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

My name is Eric Pohl. I am a fourth-year pharmacy student at the University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy. I currently work in the community pharmacy setting at CVS in Charlestown, Rhode Island. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2877.

Senate Bill 2877 proposes a cap of \$25 for a 30-day supply of supplies and equipment for insulin administration and glucose monitoring. Additionally, it would cap the cost of items used for longer than 30 days at \$25. Such a price cap would make blood glucose monitoring more accessible to patients.

Blood glucose monitoring is essential for patients with diabetes, with some patients needing to test their blood sugar via fingerstick upwards of three times daily, or using a continuous glucose monitor to measure blood sugar. Testing blood sugar can be a burdensome experience for some patients, involving a variety of equipment such as a monitor, lancets, and test strips.

A scenario that I often encounter in the community pharmacy setting is patients who do not regularly check their blood sugar as directed and choose not to do so for a number of reasons, one of which is cost. However, a lack of accurate blood glucose monitoring can cause serious problems over time. In the short term, patients may not realize when their blood sugar is trending sharply upward or downward, leading to hyperglycemic or hypoglycemic crises that may require hospitalization and result in significantly increased healthcare costs. Consistently elevated blood glucose can also lead to progression of disease, causing amputation, kidney impairment and other poor health outcomes. Additionally, patients' self-monitored glucose readings are often used by providers to make adjustments to glucose-lowering medications or to guide disease state classification; lacking such data can be detrimental to long-term outcomes. Senate Bill 2877 would lower barriers to glucose monitoring for patients and provide them with better access to at-home monitoring supplies.

Eric Pohl,
Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate
South Kingstown, Rhode Island

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Pohl". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

