

June 24, 2022

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen and Senator Collins:

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, thank you for introducing the *Improving Needed Safeguards for users of Lifesaving Insulin Now (INSULIN) Act*. The Endocrine Society is pleased to endorse this bipartisan legislation, which will take steps to lower the price of insulin, reduce out-of-pocket costs for patients, and limit formulary management barriers like prior authorization. The Endocrine Society is the world's oldest and largest organization of scientists devoted to hormone research and physicians who care for people with hormone-related conditions like diabetes. While we hear from our members about many different clinical and research issues, the soaring price and out-of-pocket cost of insulin is the one causing greatest concern for our patients. This issue is of the utmost importance to our members, and we applaud you for your leadership to address this serious and life-threatening problem.

As you know, insulin is a lifesaving drug for millions of people living with diabetes. For all people living with type 1 diabetes, insulin is the only option and must be taken for life. Over 7 million people in the United States use insulin to control their blood sugar and avoid life-changing complications such as dialysis, heart disease and amputation. Last year was the 100th anniversary of the discovery of insulin and despite this important milestone insulin continues to be unaffordable for those who rely on it. The price of insulin nearly tripled between 2002 and 2013. More recently, the list price of insulin nearly doubled between 2012 and 2016. These increases in price make it difficult for people with diabetes to manage their chronic disease.

The *INSULIN Act* would take meaningful steps to lower the price of insulin and reduce out-of-pocket costs for patients. Specifically, the legislation would ensure that patients have access to lower priced insulins, which would not be subject to the rebates normally collected by insurance plans and pharmacy benefit managers. For insulin products included in this new program, their list price will be reduced to the 2021 net price for Medicare Part D, or equivalent levels, which would be significantly lower compared to current insulin list price. These lower price insulins would be eligible for cost-sharing protections and would not be subject to formulary management requirements such as prior authorization or step therapy. This legislation would also limit out-of-pocket costs for patients with diabetes to no more than \$35 per month for at least one dosage form in each insulin product category for people on Medicare and private insurance plans.




The INSULIN Act aligns with recommendations in the Endocrine Society's [Insulin Access and Affordability Position Statement](#). In our statement, we call attention to the influence that rebates have on the rising cost of insulin and recommend implementing policies that eliminate rebates or pass rebate savings along to the patient. Our statement also recommends limiting co-pays to no more than \$35 per month for insulin. We are pleased to see these recommendations included in this legislation.

We stand ready to work with you to pass this critically important legislation without delay. With the support of our 18,000 members, we have launched a campaign, including through social media, to find the 60 votes needed to pass this legislation in the Senate. We will be working day and night to get this legislation to the President's desk for his signature as soon as possible because people with diabetes cannot wait any longer.

On behalf of our patients, thank you again for introducing this important bipartisan legislation and for your commitment to the millions of Americans who rely on insulin to live. We look forward to continuing to work with you to address this issue. If we can be of any further assistance, please contact Rob Goldsmith, Director of Advocacy and Policy at rgoldsmith@endocrine.org.

Sincerely,


Ursula Kaiser, MD
President
Endocrine Society

Cc: Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell