



INSULIN ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY: URGENT NEED TO PASS LEGISLATION

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF INSULIN. DESPITE THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE, INSULIN IS UNAFFORDABLE FOR MANY WHO RELY ON IT. **THE ENDOCRINE SOCIETY CALLS ON CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION LOWERING THE COST OF INSULIN FOR PATIENTS.**

INSULIN IS A LIFE SAVING MEDICATION:

Insulin is a life-saving medication for all people with type 1 diabetes. In addition, more than 7 million people in the United States use insulin to control their blood sugar and avoid life-changing complications, including dialysis, amputation, and heart disease.

INSULIN PRICES CONTINUE TO RISE:

Over the past 15 years, the price of insulin has nearly tripled making it unaffordable for many who depend on this lifesaving medication. These rising costs have increased health disparities in the country and have particularly jeopardized the health of minorities, low-income individuals, people on high deductible health plans, Medicare beneficiaries using Part B to cover insulin delivered via pump, Medicare beneficiaries in the Part D donut hole, and those who turn 26 and must transition from their parents' insurance.

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE INSULIN IS AN URGENT PRIORITY:

The Endocrine Society represents more than 18,000 physicians and scientists who work to treat and research endocrine disorders like diabetes. While we hear from our members about many different clinical and research issues, the rising out-of-pocket cost of insulin is the one causing the greatest concern for their patients. Our members hear

stories of patients who jeopardized their health and safety by foregoing or rationing their prescribed insulin because of cost. People with diabetes who ration or skip insulin treatment suffer the serious side effects of uncontrolled diabetes such as diabetic ketoacidosis, heart attack, or stroke. This can result in preventable hospitalization and even death. It is unacceptable that we still hear these stories which is why we are calling on Congress to address this issue.

PASS LEGISLATION LOWERING THE COST OF INSULIN:

We ask Congress to act immediately to address this urgent problem by passing legislation to make insulin affordable for those who rely on it. Policymakers should address drivers of rising insulin prices and implement solutions that will lower the out-of-pocket costs for patients. In January, the Endocrine Society published a [position statement](#) regarding access to affordable insulin. The paper offers an array of recommendations to address insulin access and affordability including rebate reform, price negotiations, lowering or removing patient cost-sharing, and increased transparency. We believe the most effective way for Congress to lower the cost of insulin is through rebate reform, but we also support efforts to lower the price of insulin and other drugs through mechanisms such as price negotiations. Congress must act quickly to pass legislation addressing this ongoing crisis impacting millions of Americans living with diabetes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
[ENDOCRINE.ORG/DIABETES](https://www.endocrine.org/diabetes)

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