



January 22, 2020

Senator Elizabeth Warren  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Richard Blumenthal  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Warren and Blumenthal,

The Endocrine Society represents more than 18,000 scientists and clinicians who research and treat endocrine diseases, including diabetes. One of our key policy priorities is addressing insulin access and affordability. We want to thank you for your leadership in this area, particularly the recent report, *Inaccessible Insulin: The Broken Promise of Eli Lilly's Authorized Generic*.

We were disappointed that your findings confirmed our concerns about access to affordable insulin as it had been our hope that new, lower cost alternatives and patient assistance programs were beginning to make a dent in this critical problem. We have been working with key stakeholders over the past two years to address this issue and requested information from manufacturers about the availability and use of lower cost options for people with diabetes. To us, it is not enough for these programs to be merely available; patient and clinician education must be expanded to ensure that individuals who desperately need access to lower cost insulin know and understand their options and have easy access to them.

As the Senate moves forward in considering drug pricing legislation, we hope that insulin will be highlighted because of its unique, lifesaving nature and the millions of Americans who rely on it to survive. Something must be done now to ensure that no patient dies because s/he cannot afford their insulin. In our position statement, we outline ways stakeholders can address this issue, including:

- ensuring greater transparency across the supply chain;
- limiting future list price increases and cost-sharing to a co-pay;
- providing NPH and regular insulin at no cost;
- including insulin on preventive drug lists;
- passing along rebates to consumers without increasing premiums or deductibles; and
- expanding access to patient assistance programs.

Additional background and details about our policy positions on insulin pricing can be [found here](#). We hope to meet with your staff to discuss these priorities and ways the Endocrine Society can be helpful as you move forward in addressing this issue. Meredith Dyer, Director of Health Policy, will contact your staff to schedule a meeting in the coming days. We look forward to working with you on behalf of the 30 million Americans living with diabetes and the physicians who treat them and thank you again for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Dale Abel".

E. Dale Abel MB.BS., D. Phil. (M.D., Ph.D.)  
President, Endocrine Society