

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, I would like to thank you for recognizing the need to address rising drug costs throughout your campaign. Founded in 1916, the Endocrine Society represents approximately 18,000 physicians and scientists engaged in the treatment and research of endocrine disorders, such as diabetes, hypertension, infertility, obesity, osteoporosis, and thyroid disease. One of the critical issues that our members' patients face is affording lifesaving medications like insulin. We have been working to underscore the importance of addressing insulin pricing in policies from the Administration and Congress and were encouraged to hear it resonate as a key issue on the campaign trail.

The need to address insulin pricing is urgent. Millions of Americans rely on insulin to manage their diabetes. People with type 1 diabetes require insulin to survive. There is no other life-sustaining drug used by so many people who would die in a matter of days if they could not afford it.

The ability to safely generate large quantities of recombinant human insulin was developed and approved nearly 40-years ago. Yet, the price of insulin has tripled over the past 15 years even though the drug has largely remained unchanged during that time. Patients are spending hundreds or thousands of dollars each month. And, with nearly a quarter of these individuals living below the poverty line, patients are rationing their insulin and forgoing other necessities like food, rent, and other medical costs in order to afford their medication. This has led to serious health problems, unnecessary complications, hospitalizations, and even death.

As you move forward in your campaign, we hope we can be a resource to you on insulin access and affordability. Our [position statement](#) outlines policies that stakeholders across the supply chain can pursue to make a difference on this issue. Specifically, we believe that:

- greater transparency is needed across the supply chain;
- cost-sharing should be limited to a co-pay;
- rebates should be passed along to consumers without increasing premiums or deductibles;
- Patient Assistance Programs should be less restrictive and more accessible;
- and patients should be educated about low-income assistance programs (e.g. the Extra Help program under Medicare).

We hope you will continue to help us highlight the importance of this issue in your campaign. If you have any questions, or if we can be a resource to you as you pursue drug pricing policy, please contact Meredith Dyer, Director of Health Policy, at mdyer@endocrine.org.

Sincerely,



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President, Endocrine Society