

July 26, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, the world's largest professional organization of endocrinologists, I am writing to urge you to advance the *Improving Needed Safeguards for Users of Lifesaving Insulin Now (INSULIN) Act* before the August recess. Our member physicians provide care to millions of people across the country living with diabetes, including those who rely on insulin to survive. Our patients continue to struggle to afford their insulin and this bipartisan legislation would provide immediate relief for our patients by lowering the price of insulin through rebate reform and reducing out-of-pocket costs for patients.

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 drug option and must be taken for life. In the United States, more than 7 million people rely on insulin to manage their diabetes. This includes approximately 244,000 children and adolescents under the age of 20 living with type 1 diabetes. While insulin is over 100 years old, its price continues to escalate and is unaffordable for many people living with diabetes. The price of insulin nearly tripled between 2002 and 2013. More recently, the list price of insulin nearly doubled between 2012 and 2016. The impact of inflation has made this issue even more dire with millions of Americans paying more money for basic necessities including groceries and gasoline. Senators on both sides of the aisle have acknowledged insulin needs to be more affordable and have called for action.

The Senate has discussed this issue for many years. There have been numerous bipartisan hearings held on prescription drug affordability in the committees of jurisdiction including the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Committee on Aging. In 2021, the Senate Finance Committee, under the leadership of then Chairman Chuck Grassley and Ranking Member Ron Wyden, released a [bipartisan report](#), which highlighted the factors leading to skyrocketing insulin prices, particularly how the use of rebates has driven up the list price of insulin. The bipartisan INSULIN Act addresses concerns raised by Senators. The legislation would institute a monthly \$35 insulin co-pay cap for people with diabetes on Medicare and private insurance. The bill would also ensure that patients have access to lower priced insulins by providing incentives to lower the list price of insulin through rebate reform without imposing price controls or authorizing government negotiation of drug prices. The Endocrine Society has [endorsed this legislation](#) because it would lower the cost of insulin for our patients who continued to struggle to afford this lifesaving medication.



We urge you to support the INSULIN Act and hold a vote on this bipartisan legislation immediately. Our patients cannot wait any longer. If we can be of any assistance, please have your staff contact Rob Goldsmith, Director of Advocacy and Policy at [rgoldsmith@endocrine.org](mailto:rgoldsmith@endocrine.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ursula Kaiser".

Ursula Kaiser, MD  
President  
Endocrine Society