

May 10, 2023

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

Dear Senator Shaheen:

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, thank you for introducing the Improving Needed Safeguards for Users of Lifesaving Insulin Now (INSULIN) Act of 2023. The Society has over 18,000 members worldwide composed of scientists, physicians, nurses, and students, many with expertise in caring for people with diabetes. For years our members have expressed their alarm about the lack of access to affordable insulin. Consequently, improving insulin access and affordability is a top priority for the Endocrine Society and we commend you for your commitment to and leadership in finding a solution that will address both the out-of-pocket costs for consumers and rising price of this lifesaving medication.

We believe the INSULIN Act would make insulin more affordable and would address the underlying problems in the insulin market that contribute to escalating prices. As you know, there are more than 7 million people nationwide who rely on this lifesaving medication to manage their diabetes. The Endocrine Society is pleased to endorse the INSULIN Act and is ready to work with you to pass this legislation in the Senate. This bill, which aligns with the policy recommendations in the Society's insulin position statement, would make insulin more affordable by capping out-of-pocket insulin costs to \$35 per month for people with private insurance. The legislation would also ensure that patients can share in insulin rebates and discounts which are normally collected by Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM). Finally, the legislation includes provisions to promote biosimilar competition in the insulin market. Although the discovery of insulin occurred over a century ago, the price of insulin nearly tripled between 2002 and 2013, and this upward trend has continued over the past decade. In 2021 alone, nearly one in five American adults with diabetes—about 1.3 million people—rationed their insulin to save money. Our patients with diabetes cannot wait any longer for relief.

Thank you again for your dedication to ensuring that insulin is made more affordable for people living with diabetes. If we can be of any further assistance, please contact Rob Goldsmith, Director of Advocacy and Policy at rgoldsmith@endocrine.org.

Sincerely,



Ursula Kaiser

Ursula Kaiser
President
Endocrine Society