



April 8th, 2020

**Testimony of Sarah Derr, PharmD
Minnesota Pharmacy Association**

My name is Sarah Derr, I am a pharmacist by training and the Executive Director of the Minnesota Pharmacists Association. MPhA represents pharmacists and pharmacies throughout the State of Minnesota. We also work with our health system pharmacists through the Minnesota Pharmacy Alliance (MPA).

We appreciate that you and your colleagues are addressing the insulin affordability problem for patients with this legislation before you today. We applaud your efforts to address an immediate urgent emergency patient need as well as provide relief to patient's who may have a longer-term affordability issues maintaining their insulin. This is a good bill that will work for patients with diabetes and the pharmacists who will work with them to make sure they have the insulin they need through this program.

MPhA and Minnesota pharmacists and pharmacies support the Alec Smith Insulin Affordability Act - emergency and longer-term insulin legislation.

This bill utilizes existing patient medication access infrastructure and a Minnesota specific manufacturer patient assistance program to help Minnesotans who cannot afford their high cost of insulin.

MPhA and all of Minnesota pharmacy appreciates the Senate and House members listening to our initial concerns and advice about how practically this program can work for the patients with diabetes seeking to access their insulin through there community pharmacy. Thank you.

After discussing the bill with our pharmacy members we believe both the emergency and long-term insulin programs are workable from a patient utilization and pharmacy implementation standpoint. The urgent-need insulin qualifying attestation, claims processing and co-payment provisions in the legislation are adequate and we believe all operational practical considerations have been taken into account. We look forward to

working with the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy and MNSure along with manufacturers of insulin to make sure this program works for patients and pharmacies throughout Minnesota.

Minnesota pharmacists support affordable medications for our patients and we look forward to Governor Walz signing this insulin patient assistance program for Minnesotans into law.