

Insulin Conference Committee Testimony

April 8, 2020

Dear Representative Howard, Senator Jensen, and Members of the Conference Committee,

On behalf of my family and others living with diabetes in Minnesota, thank you. It wasn't easy working on this bill during the best of times, but to reach compromise during a global pandemic demonstrates a great commitment to the Minnesotans who need insulin to live. The high cost of insulin, combined with job losses as a result of the pandemic, has made establishing an insulin safety-net program even more important than before. We hope to see this bill passed and implemented soon.

It strikes me that agreement on this bill was reached during Easter Holy Week and on the eve of Passover. There's a Jewish saying that "whoever saves one life saves the whole world." While this bill won't bring back those who are lost - Alec, Jesy, and others whose names we do not even know - this bill will save a life in the future. This bill will save someone's son, daughter, friend, spouse. A whole world.

This bill isn't exactly what advocates wanted. It isn't a perfect bill. But it is a good bill, a compromise for certain, but good. I look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen this bill in the future and to address other challenges that Minnesotans face in accessing and affording the medications and healthcare they need to stay healthy and alive.

Thank you and stay well,

Lija

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