



Connected **for Life**

March 1, 2022

Dear Chair Lieblich and Health Finance and Policy Committee

On behalf of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) please accept my thanks for hearing House File 2056 (HF 2056) to cap cost sharing for diabetes prescription drugs, supplies, and equipment.

As it stands, 20 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws to cap copayments for insulin and address the unsustainable costs of diabetes. Between 2002 and 2013 the cost of insulin nearly tripled<sup>1</sup>. When people cannot afford the tools and services necessary to manage their diabetes, they scale back or forego the care they need to manage their health.

This bill also addresses the burden of accessing life changing technology tools. Diabetes technology can help people with diabetes better manage their chronic disease and reduce devastating complications including amputations, kidney failure, and emergency room visits. Despite the benefits the cost of accessing continuous glucose monitors and insulin pumps has prohibited people from accessing them. An ADA survey found that 15% of people with diabetes who rely on pumps or CGMs have delayed refilling needed supplies during the pandemic. For 70% of them, it was due to finances.<sup>2</sup>

In 2019, BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota announced that they would offer insulin to members with a \$0 co-pay.<sup>3</sup> Following Colorado's legislation, the Colorado Sun reviewed documents from the 21 health plans and found that the insulin copay cap either did not impact premiums or if they did, it was described as negligible.<sup>4</sup> This legislation offers a solution to ensure that people with diabetes can afford the medication and tools that they need. I respectfully ask for your support of HF 2056.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [ckemp@diabetes.org](mailto:ckemp@diabetes.org).

Sincerely,

Carissa Kemp  
Director of State Government Affairs and Advocacy  
American Diabetes Association

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<sup>1</sup> American Diabetes Association, [https://diabetes.org/advocacy/insulin-and-drug-affordability?utm\\_source=diabetes-care-cost&utm\\_medium=website&utm\\_content=learn-more-1-btn&utm\\_campaign=ADV&s\\_src=online&s\\_subsrc=insulin-drug-affordability](https://diabetes.org/advocacy/insulin-and-drug-affordability?utm_source=diabetes-care-cost&utm_medium=website&utm_content=learn-more-1-btn&utm_campaign=ADV&s_src=online&s_subsrc=insulin-drug-affordability)

<sup>2</sup> Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on People with Diabetes, <https://www.diabetes.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/ADA%20Thrivable%20Data%20Deck.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> BlueCross and BlueShield of Minnesota to Cover Insulin Costs as No Charge Next Year, <https://www.bluecrossmn.com/about-us/newsroom/news-releases/blue-cross-and-blue-shield-minnesota-cover-insulin-costs-no-charge>

<sup>4</sup> Ingold, John, Critics worried Colorado's new law capping insulin costs would raise insurance rates. It hasn't. <https://coloradosun.com/2019/09/11/colorado-insulin-price-insurance/>