



February 13, 2023

Dear Members of the Commerce Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of over 10,000 members of the Minnesota Medical Association, I am writing in support of HF 348 to cap copayments for chronic disease medications, supplies, and devices.

This legislation directly addresses access and affordability of supplies and technology to manage chronic conditions. This legislation is especially important to Minnesota's diabetic patients. Recent advances in diabetes related technology have shown to drastically improve health outcomes and add years – if not decades – to the lives of people with diabetes.

Recent technology such as continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) and insulin pumps have made the control and care of diabetes more manageable for countless patients. Data has proven that people with type 1 and type 2 diabetes who use a CGMs have fewer instances of hypoglycemia and a lower A1C.

However, the primary obstacle to those who want CGMs is cost. Many people with diabetes delay getting a CGM or insulin pump because the monthly expenses are too high. Added onto the already high cost of insulin that many diabetics also often pay, life with diabetes can become unaffordable for too many. When people are unable to adequately manage diabetes, it increases their risk of developing complications and worsened health outcomes.

This bill also works to address the existing health disparities experienced by too many Minnesotans. Currently, uncontrolled diabetes disproportionately affects low-income and traditionally marginalized communities. Specifically, data shows that people with diabetes who qualify for Medicaid, especially in minority populations who qualify for Medicaid, are the least likely to use a CGM and have higher rates of uncontrolled diabetes.

HF 348 is an important step to helping those with chronic diseases like diabetes live a longer and healthier life. I urge the committee to support HF 348.

Sincerely,

William Nicholson, MD
President, Minnesota Medical Association