

1.26.2021

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Christine Fallabel, and I am the Director of State Government Affairs and Advocacy with the American Diabetes Association. On behalf of the Association, I want to convey support for MN H 103, a bill that would repeal certain driver licensing requirements related to diabetes mellitus in Minnesota.

Current Minnesota statute requires that individuals with diabetes report diagnosis of insulin-treated diabetes or episode to receive a driver's license. People must report at the following junctures: after a diagnosis of insulin-treated diabetes; at the time of applying for a driver's license; and within 30 days after the diagnosis. Diabetic "episodes" or low blood sugars while driving, must also be reported: within 30 days after the episode; and on a regularly scheduled physician's statement as required.

If a person has reason to know of the requirements, and willfully fails to report or willfully makes a material misrepresentation to the department concerning the person's diabetic condition, the commissioner shall suspend the person's driver's license for six months. The six-month suspension period will begin within 30 days from the date the department discovers the failure to report or misrepresentation. We believe that these laws are outdated and discriminatory against people living with diabetes and that they should be repealed.

These laws were passed over 50 years ago, before analog insulins, the use of insulin pumps, and before any at-home glucose monitoring technology was available. People with diabetes who drive are safer now than ever before; there is no evidence that people with diabetes get into more car accidents than people without diabetes, and 12 states and counting have repealed these restrictions within the past decade. There is no evidence that having these reporting requirements makes the roads any safer, either.

Repealing this law would save the state money, save administrative time and burden on the Department of Transportation, and would be a weight lifted off the shoulders of the thousands of diabetic drivers in the state. We urge you to vote yes on MNHB103.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, I can be reached at cfallabel@diabetes.org

Sincerely,

Christine Fallabel, MPH



Director, State Government Affairs
The American Diabetes Association

