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Gayle L. Manning
State Representative

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member West, and members of the Ohio House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 420, which would ensure that up to three emergency doses of insulin dispensed in a calendar year by a pharmacist would be covered by a health insurer.

We often hear that diabetic patients ration their insulin because they cannot get to a doctor, or they are unable to afford their prescriptions. In some cases, diabetic patients experience medical emergencies due to insulin rationing. I worked on legislation in the 131st General Assembly that changed the law to allow pharmacists to dispense a dose of insulin or other life-saving medication in an emergency situation to a patient.

This legislation, HB 420, builds on my previous legislation. I've heard that even though diabetic patients can get the dose of insulin dispensed by a pharmacist in an emergency situation, many of them are not because it is not covered by insurance, and they cannot afford it. HB 420 ensures that if a patient is dispensed an emergency dose of insulin or other life-saving drug, it is covered as if it was a prescription filled under normal circumstances. In fact, HB 420 ensures coverage of up to three dispensed emergency doses of insulin or other live saving-drugs. Many Ohioans are dependent on insulin, and this legislation is just one step forward in increasing access for patients.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify. I will entertain questions at this time.