

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo,

Thank you for the opportunity to share proponent testimony on HB 37. My name is Kelly Kemme and I am writing you today on behalf of my husband. Tim was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) in 8th grade. He is now 35 and has managed this disease every day since. He will continue to manage it every day for the rest of his life.

I thought of diabetes as easily managed with diet and medicine. When I married a diabetic, I realized how wrong I was. Diabetes may be common in our country, but it is far from easy. It is complex, scary and expensive (even with good health insurance).

A few years ago, Tim's blood sugar bottomed out in his sleep. Had I not been home (I often traveled for work at that time) to awaken from his seizure, he would have died. He took the same amount of insulin as usual, so I feared it could be due to a bad vial and was terrified for him to use the rest of that batch.

In 2015, Ohio passed an emergency prescription refill law (HB 188) called Kevin's Law. It was named for Kevin Houdeshell. He was unable to refill his insulin prescription on a holiday weekend. His pharmacist could not reach his doctor and could not fill the prescription as a result. Because of this, Kevin died.

HB 37 would expand that emergency prescription refill law to allow for 3 emergency refills per year rather than one. It would also require insurance companies to cover that emergency refill. Not only is this the right thing to do, but it is also more cost effective than the alternative. An ER visit to stabilize blood sugars costs \$10,000 on average.

There are several reasons someone may need an emergency refill of insulin. Insurance coverage is vial, as the cost of insulin has gone from \$40 to around \$300 per vial since 2009.

Izzy (our 3-year-old) and Timmy (our 1.5-year-old) light up and run to hug their daddy each day after work. He's a great dad, a wonderful husband and a hard-working Ohioan. Please keep my family in mind when considering HB 37!

Sincerely,

Kelly Kemme