



**State Rep. Munira Abdullahi**

Ohio House District 09 – N Columbus, Westerville, Gahanna & New Albany

Health Committee

H.B. 263 Sponsor Testimony

Wednesday, June 04, 2025

Thank you Chairwoman Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, & Ranking Member Somani.

It is my honor to introduce House Bill 263, the **Insulin Reduction Act**, a bipartisan effort led by Representative Hall and me. This bill builds on the progress made by the federal Inflation Reduction Act, which capped the cost of insulin at \$35 for nearly four million seniors on Medicare. HB 263 takes that step further by ensuring that **all Ohioans** have access to affordable insulin and the necessary dispensary devices, capping out-of-pocket costs at \$35.

For those who may be unfamiliar, insulin is a life-sustaining hormone that helps regulate blood sugar. While most people produce it naturally, individuals with diabetes either produce too little or none at all. Nearly **one million adults in Ohio** have been diagnosed with diabetes—including myself. As someone who lives with this condition, I know firsthand how critical and urgent access to affordable insulin is. This bill is not just policy; It is personal. It reflects my commitment to advancing equitable healthcare for all.

On a global scale, the cost of insulin in the United States is nearly **ten times higher** than the world average. While Americans pay an average of \$99 per vial, prices in countries like Canada, Mexico, and South Korea range from \$8 to \$21. This disparity is both alarming and unacceptable for a medication people depend on to stay alive. Especially in our country that is so advanced and rich in resources.

According to Health Policy Institute of Ohio, despite the high cost of insulin, Ohio ranks **40th out of 50 states** for adult diabetes health outcomes and **31st out of 51** (including Washington, D.C.) for diabetes with long-term complications. These rankings underscore a major disconnect between what we spend and the quality of care Ohioans receive.



Currently, nearly 1.3 million Americans are forced to resort to insulin rationing due to the unaffordable costs. The **Insulin Reduction Act** has the potential to dramatically improve these outcomes and save lives. It will provide crucial relief to the most vulnerable among us—**veterans, our young folks, low-income individuals, and communities of color**—who too often bear the heaviest burden of chronic illness and unaffordable care.

This legislation is just the beginning. It is a step toward building a healthcare system where **no Ohioan has to choose between life-saving medication and putting food on the table**. Let us move forward together to make healthcare affordable, equitable, and accessible for all.