



Connected **for Life**

**House Bill 37
Proponent Testimony**

Gary Dougherty
Director, State Government Affairs
American Diabetes Association®
House Health Committee
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Chairman Lipps and Members of the House Health Committee:

My name is Gary Dougherty and I am the Director of State Government Affairs for the American Diabetes Association® (ADA). Unfortunately, I am unable to join you this morning; therefore, I am submitting this written testimony in support of House Bill 37 which enhances previously enacted legislation.

Over the New Year's holiday in 2014, Kevin Houdeshell, a northeastern Ohioan with diabetes, ran out of insulin and was unable to reach his physician to get a new prescription. He began to ration the last of his insulin until he could see his doctor after the holiday. However, due to a lack of sufficient insulin, he went into diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) and died.

In 2016, legislation which has become known as Kevin's Law was enacted and became a model for at least 16 other states that have enacted similar legislation. Kevin's Law permits a pharmacist, under certain conditions, to dispense an emergency supply of insulin or other chronic maintenance drug without a current, valid prescription.

Whereas Kevin's Law has been a lifesaving option for many, some people have not taken advantage of it because the emergency supply of insulin dispensed by the pharmacist is not covered by insurance.

The legislation before us today, HB 37, improves upon Kevin's Law by ensuring coverage of up to three emergency doses of insulin or other life saving-drugs within any 12-month period.

Insulin access is a high priority for the ADA and HB 37 will help achieve that goal.

On behalf of the more than 4.3 million Ohioans with or at risk for diabetes, the ADA urges your support for House Bill 37 which will help individuals who no longer have refills left on their insulin prescription, have run out of insulin, and are not able to reach their doctors to call in a refill.

Thank you very much for your attention. If you have any questions, please direct them to me at gdougherty@diabetes.org and I will do my best to answer them for you.

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