

Andrew Champa Testimony:

When HB37 becomes law, it will offer type I diabetics a much-needed contingency for when the unexpected happens. The number of things that can go wrong with a diabetic's therapy is endless (therapies are always changing). Therefore, there are endless reasons why a type I diabetic might need an emergency supply of medication.

Type I diabetics are unable to produce their own insulin. Insulin allows sugar from the blood stream enter the cells where it is then converted to energy. Without insulin, blood sugar levels increase and the body searches for other ways to produce energy. Symptoms of high blood sugar range from frequent urination to death.

Personally, I have yet to need a law like HB37. Luckily, I have been able to get what I need before having to throw in the towel and call an ambulance. The closest I have been to needing a law like HB37 was when my wife and I were backpacking in the Tetons in 2020. After a series of equipment failures and discovering an error in packing, I found myself in need of syringes, in the middle of the night, in torrential rain. Note, Insulin can only be administered by injection.

Thankfully, we had not started our hike into the backcountry, so we were at a campsite and had immediate access to a car. The first step was drive until we could get a cell phone signal. The next step was to find a 24-hour pharmacy. Next was to call the pharmacies that were open and convince the pharmacist to dispense syringes without a prescription. This is by far the hardest step especially during the opioid crisis. Many pharmacists will not even listen to your story. We attempted several 24-pharmacies with no luck. Finally, we found one...It was three hours away. Generally, a type I diabetic can go a few hours without insulin before developing any severe symptoms. For me, I can go about 4 hours. It took about an hour to find a willing pharmacist and the drive was 3 hours. I would be cutting it close, but I had no choice. The clock was ticking, and I could afford no mistakes. My wife and I set the GPS for the pharmacy and headed into the rainy darkness to find a life-saving syringe.

While I was able to get what I needed without a law like HB37, it does not mean this law is not necessary. I was lucky and have experience talking to pharmacists. But not all type I diabetics are like me. Additionally, I personally would benefit knowing there is another tool to get the supplies I need in an emergency situation.

Please support HB37 which will offer type I diabetics a much-needed option for when the unexpected happens. Consider, a diabetic who uses a pump is administered diabetic therapy every 4-5 minutes. If this diabetic was diagnosed at 10 years old and is expected of live to 65, they will experience 5,781,600 to 7,227,000 individual scheduled doses of medication. At these magnitudes, there is a zero percent chance there will ever be a diabetic that will go their entire life without encountering the unexpected.