

PROPONENT TESTIMONY  
For  
Ohio HB 37  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Dear Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health Committee.

My name is Danielle Siefer from Findlay, Ohio and I am submitting a strong proponent testimony for Ohio HB 37 as submitted by House Representative Gayle Manning.

I want to explain why I am not only supportive of this bill, but why I feel HB 37 is vital to the lives of your constituents. The lives of many people depend on their prescriptions being available and affordable. HB 188, originally passed in 2015 was a start. This law was improved with the addition of the Emergency Prescription Refill Law following the death of Kevin Houdeshell when he was not able to obtain his life sustaining insulin over a holiday weekend.

HB 37 will continue the forward momentum and bring the emergency prescription refill requirements where they should be. This will strengthen Ohio's Law and help to further protect those who rely on medication for their life everyday.

My daughter was diagnosed as a Type 1 Diabetic, 14 years ago following a viral infection she had. I have seen first hand what Diabetic Ketoacidosis looks like and how scary it is. We were fortunate to go 11 years without seeing it. However, she was not able to get insulin for 36 hours during a trip once and she went into DKA that fast. I always fear her being able to get her insulin when we travel if something was to happen to the vial we bring with her. Now with her starting college, and becoming an adult, I know that she will have to continue to fight and advocate for herself, the way that I have for the past 14 years. It is a constant battle with our health insurance companies to make sure they are covering what they are supposed to and at the coverage amounts they are supposed to.

In my opinion this is why HB 37 is so critical. It will ensure that insurance covers the life sustaining insulin that Type 1 diabetics need. Insulin has increased in price so drastically over the past 14 years. How do we continue to allow pharmaceutical companies to become rich off of the people who critically need the medication. It is price gouging to continue to allow them to charge diabetics

hundreds of dollars per vial of insulin. My daughter requires 3 vials every month. I fear that as she ages out of my insurance that she finds a job that will provide her adequate insurance that she will be able to afford a life outside of her medication.

Further, the expansion of Kevin's Law will help prevent emergencies while traveling, over holiday weekends, or any other time that a doctor cannot be reached for a refill or new prescription at a new pharmacy. I realize that currently we have one emergency refill per year, but life happens 365 days every year and in a year especially like this past year, emergencies happen whenever they want and don't follow a calendar very neatly. Having the ability to get three months of emergency insulin, versus only 72 hours is a huge life saving move and it is time to enact this. With the pandemic of the past year we have seen healthcare front and center. Kevin's Law has been enacted in numerous states since Ohio enacted it and many have built upon our foundation. Through the pandemic many pharmacists and patients were aided by the use of Kevin's Law to obtain the medications they needed. The law has been used and shown to save lives and now we have the chance to do more.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Danielle Siefer