



February 27, 2021

Chairman Scott Lipps
House Health Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

To Chairman Lipps and the House Health Committee:

I invite you to consider the terror of standing at a Walgreens' pharmacy counter and being told that your prescription has run out, knowing fully that you will start to die in 48 hours without the insulin you depend on to live; it happens to be a Friday evening, and the doctor's office will remain closed until Monday, which is more than 48 hours away. Imagine the added rage when, once the pharmacist agrees to fill the prescription, your out-of-pocket price is more than your monthly salary. This is not a few missed vitamins; this is life or death.

Ohioan Kevin Houdeshell died in 2014 at age 36 in just such a scenario, after which Ohio led the nation in passing law to prevent such horrible tragedies. Yet Ohio can do more to protect Ohioans like me, who live with type 1 diabetes, by expanding Kevin's law.

If the terror of being denied insulin is unfamiliar, the hassles of dealing with prescriptions and insurance benefits are surely easier to recognize – all Americans have to navigate a bureaucratic maze when it comes to managing their health. Even the most adept, empowered, and health-literate among us are likely to face moments when coordination between the doctor's office, pharmacy, and health insurer has broken down. In this sense, expanding Kevin's Law will not only save lives but acknowledge the humanity of the chronically ill who depend on high-cost, prescription medications to live.

Sincerely,

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