

Testimony From Linda M. Sivik

RE: OH HB37 Kevin's Law 2.0

The new bill expands upon the original one, mandating insurance coverage and increasing the allotted amount of medication refills from 1 time to 3 times in a 12-month period.

To the Ohio House:

My name is Linda M. Sivik and I am a resident of Warren County, Ohio. My family has been impacted by Type 1 Diabetes twice in our lifetime. Our daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) on July 22, 2018 at the age of 10 years. My husband's brother was diagnosed with T1D during their childhood, at the age of 7 years, and tragically lost his battle due to complications arising from T1D at the age of 26.

As a parent, my utmost responsibility is to keep our daughter safe and healthy in her journey with T1D. Her life since her diagnosis at the age of 10 is so very challenging and has required her to become responsible beyond her years for managing T1D at her school, in sports, and everyday life. And while we are here every day to guide and manage her T1D along with her, and fortunate with doctors, insurance and providers to assist us in this journey, one day as an adult she will manage this disease on her own. We never want her to be a position, or any other individual or family, due to economics, timing, prescription renewals or any other factor to not be able to obtain insulin when critically needed. This bill is crucial to allow this never to happen.

Families need to be assured that their loved ones, while in their care, and once they are on their own, will be able to use the provisions of this bill so they have access to insulin when in need, while prescriptions or insurance is being worked out, and never denied this life saving insulin.

Thank you to House Members for championing this essential bill to keep our daughter safe, now and in her future, as well as so many others who battle this relentless disease every day of their lives.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Sivik