

Marianne Flannery

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, thank you for the opportunity to share proponent testimony on HB 37. My name is Marianne Flannery, and my 11 year old son Kyle is a Type 1 Diabetic.

I appreciate your time to consider my testimony for HB 37 and the expansion of emergency prescription coverage. This bill would expand that emergency prescription refill law to allow for 3 emergency refills per year rather than one. It would also require insurance companies to cover that emergency refill. Not only is this the right thing to do, but it is also more cost effective than the alternative. An ER visit to stabilize blood sugars costs \$10,000 on average.

Where insulin is concerned there are several reasons someone may need an emergency refill, including a broken vial, insulin that was left in the heat (during power outages, for example), a bad vial (yes, this happens), needing more insulin than usual due to illness or stress, insulin forgotten at home or in a hotel room (as it is often kept in the refrigerator) and equipment failures that lead to losing the insulin in the reservoir of an insulin pump. We have had several pump issues, and had to go to different insulin, as well as having insulin go "bad" due to temperature changes etc. Living with and caring for a child with T1D is stressful enough- we need to know as Ohioans that our government is helping enable emergency access to this life saving medicine.

Lastly, the mandate for insurance coverage is an important piece to this- the cost of insulin is downright outrageous. Since 2009, the cost of insulin has gone from \$40 a vial to around \$300 a vial with no change in the product. Research indicates that as much as 70% of the cost of insulin is made up of pharmacy benefit manager rebates. There is no other viable option for families besides the insulin that is required.

I urge you to pass HB 37 to make it easier for them to obtain insulin in emergency situations.

Sincerely,--

Marianne B. Flannery

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