

I'm writing today regarding HB 37 expansion that was introduced on 2/3/20 sponsored by Gayle Manning. Currently I am a high school senior that will be attending college this fall. As a Type 1 Diabetic my future sometimes looks scary. Not because of diabetes itself but because I've watched my mom worry constantly about having access at all times to a medication that keeps me alive. This medication is a liquid, in a glass bottle, and it keeps me alive everyday. Do you know how many times since I was diagnosed, I've broken a vial? Numerous! Do you know how many times our electricity has gone out and we worried if the insulin was going to still be good because it wasn't refrigerated? Numerous! Do you know how many times we have traveled in a vehicle that we had been storing insulin in, praying that the packs of ice were keeping it cold enough but not freezing it? Numerous! Do you know what it is like for a parent to be laid off during a pandemic and fear losing the prescription coverage that ultimately keeps their child alive is like? My dad does! All of these things are scary! All of these things can cost me my life. None of which are my own fault! I guess you could blame me for the broken vials but when I explain that my hands were shaking, I was sweating, and honestly ready to lose it because my sugar was over 400 for some unknown reason, then I guess it really isn't my fault. My future does look scary, it's the days following a broken vial when we try to ration the insulin to make it through to the next refill. It's scary when a huge storm went through and we lost power for three days and we had to keep our insulin in a cooler with ice praying it would still be usable. Honestly, all of it is scary! What if all of the above mentioned happened within a six month time period? You guessed it, a once a year emergency refill would never be enough to keep me alive and you would be reading about my story in an obituary. It may even make some local headlines, "18 year old college freshman died while trying to ration insulin". You can stop that headline from happening to so many Type 1 Diabetics by joining in with your fellow representatives and passing the expansion that would allow a diabetic to be able to have an emergency refill of their life saving medication three times a year. The expansion would also help by making the insurance companies cover the prescription at the regular rate the patient would normally have to pay. This is extremely helpful because let's be honest, not too many families have an extra \$1200 laying around. Do you have any idea how many lives this will save? I honestly don't, but in your position I would think saving just one life with this expansion would be worth it. Please help the expansion move forward and pass, it is important to so many Ohio Type 1 Diabetics and their families.

Please think about if this was affecting your son, your daughter what would you do to then pass this bill? Everything, right? That is what parents and type 1's in Ohio are asking you to do, everything. Saving just one life would be a tremendous feeling and you have the power to do just that.

Thank you for considering my thoughts and fears.

Sincerely,

Michaela Ross