

Hello Ohio Senate Members,

My name is Emily Champa. I live in Cincinnati, Ohio with my husband, Andrew, my son, Maxwell, and our daughter, Abigail. I am submitting my written testimony in support of HB 37 as my husband was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when he was 10 years old.

I would like to thank many of you for responding to my email when the bill was introduced. This bill is especially important for individuals and families of those with Type 1 diabetes and even those with Type 2 Diabetes who require insulin. In Ohio, over **11%** of the population has been diagnosed with diabetes. In addition, individuals with diabetes, such as my husband, have around **2.3 times** the medical expenses than the average Ohioan. A final fact I wanted to mention is the cost of emergency visits/hospital visits for complications related to diabetes in Ohio was almost **\$76 million** dollars from Medicaid (Ohio Diabetes Action Plan, 2018). Having access to life-saving supplies and having the costs covered is therefore extremely important for Ohioans.

My husband and I have needed to obtain emergency supplies for his Type 1 Diabetes on a few occasions. Each time, it has been extremely stressful and entailed calling several pharmacies, sometimes in the middle of the night, to see if a pharmacist would provide supplies. In those instances, we were also worried that the end result would entail an emergency room visit. Not only was this something we were concerned about affording but we knew if we could just obtain supplies it could be prevented. We are fortunate we do have health insurance, but many people might risk their own health and could even die from trying to wait to obtain supplies until they could get another prescription from their doctor or attend their typical pharmacy.

Obtaining an emergency supply of Type 1 diabetes supplies can be the difference between my husband seeing our two young children another day or me becoming a widow at 34 years old. At the current rate of diabetic research, my husband will always need his diabetes supplies. He and others need access to supplies 24/7 as they live with a life-threatening disease 24/7. Diabetes does not care if you are healthy, have a family, a job, monitor your blood sugar, have insurance, or anything else. You can die in the middle of the night because you don't have access or coverage. It is unacceptable. We must change this. Please support the passing of HB37.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Emily Champa

A very concerned wife and mother

Ohio Diabetes Action Plan. (2018) Ohio Department of Health. Retrieved from:
<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Diabetes/Diabetes>