

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

for Ohio HB 37
134th General Assembly

Senate Health Committee

Dear Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee.

I am Jonathan Knight from Lima, Ohio and I will be speaking on behalf of the be a part of it organization. I am 17 years old, attending Heritage Christian School, and a proponent for this bill.

I was diagnosed with type one diabetes at the age of ten, drastically changing my life. Thanks to my mother who mentioned to my doctor at a regular well check that I had started to wet the bed, my doctor ran several tests that ultimately sent me to the Emergency Room at Nationwide Children's Hospital ultimately being diagnosed with type one diabetes. Immediately I found out I would not be able to live with type one diabetes on my own; I would need the support and help of others. Most of all I had to realize that God allowed diabetes to be in my life for a reason

Daily living with type one diabetes is no easy task. My mind has to be constantly engaged knowing what to do in specific blood sugar situations. When I play soccer I watch to glucose monitor to make sure my sugar stays high enough that I do not pass out. At school, I have to watch to make sure my sugar does not spike too high I lose clarity during tests.

One hundred and fifty years ago living the life I am able to live today with type one diabetes would have been impossible, but in the early 1900s, Dr. Banting and Best were able to discover the lack of insulin in animals as the link to diabetes.

Being able to know that I always have access to insulin would be a huge help. Recently, I checked the refrigerator to see if I had a bottle of insulin in it and could not find one. My insurance had approved me to get a three-month supply of insulin at once, which was great until I ran out and needed the insulin the next day. My mom went to the pharmacy and they said that they were currently out of the brand of insulin I needed. After a kerfuffle at the pharmacy, we were able to go across town to pick it up from another pharmacy that had it in stock. Without that insulin, I could have gone into DKA leading me to hospitalization, or if no one else was around death. Not having access to insulin is a constant fear type one diabetics have as well as their families.

This summer my two-year-old cousin was diagnosed with Type one diabetes. Her parent's insurance costs skyrocketed recently before she was diagnosed raising the awareness in her home that insulin was not easy to access.

Insulin is just the main ingredient to a long list of supplies diabetics need to live the best lives they can. The fears involved in not having guaranteed access to insulin are great.

Once when I was on vacation I had forgotten a bottle of insulin that I needed for the week, but while I was there my Aunt who also has type one diabetes was able to give me some of hers to help me get through the vacation till I got home.

That vacation is just one of many reasons this bill needs to be passed. Several relatives of mine have had to have their parent or spouse choose their job based on the health insurance plan that was able to cover insulin.

One thing in long list of supplies that most diabetics do not have is peace of mind about where to get insulin in an emergency. HB 37 will be able to help give that peace of mind diabetics need. HB 37 needs to be passed today in order give emergency access to diabetics, allowing many lives to be saved.

Thank you for listening.

Jonathan Knight