

Proponent Testimony on HB 37 – Robert Boley

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, thank you for the opportunity to share proponent testimony on HB 37. OH, HB37 Kevin's Law 2.0, the new bill expands upon Kevin's Law, mandating insurance coverage and increasing the amount of medication refills from 1 time to 3 times in a year.

Living as an 18-year-old type 1 diabetic, beyond the extreme monthly prices of the medicines I use in my everyday life, there is never an off day from being a diabetic. I am a diabetic athlete who wrestles every day, has schoolwork, and is trying to live my best college experience in the new times of the pandemic. It is easy to gloss over the difficulties diabetes can bring, from having to check my blood sugar multiple times during practice, taking insulin multiple times a day and understanding how exercise and my diabetes interact with each other. My blood sugar can affect the way I feel every day, whether for the good or bad. Extreme complications can arise when focus is lost due to distractions or a hectic schedule. Even though I control the disease the best I can instances of both hypo and hyper sugars can and will happen. I have gone low and needed medical attention as well as into DKA with dehydration causing high BG and throwing up, and having to go to the hospital, just because of not having enough insulin in my body. Being in college, I must independently manage my diabetes, even at night when I am sleeping. My mother can't check on me every day, and make sure I am up to date with my diabetic supplies. This law would be greatly beneficial, for instance if I happen to need emergency insulin at college or after college, especially when I am in dire need of it.

There are many more positives for this law that would come for the whole type 1 diabetic community. This law would help families tremendously where situations can arise out of nowhere a diabetic would need emergency prescription refill of insulin such as prescription expiring, not being able to get a hold the doctor's office, dropping an insulin vial, leaving insulin at school/work or supplies slipping out of your diabetic bag. Not to mention, medicine that is needed for one's own life should be able to be covered by insurance. Medical expenses for diabetes are exceedingly high, and many families already have enough trouble financially to pay for life saving medicine let alone an emergency refill. No diabetic should ever need to walk away from an emergency refill, just from the cost or a law justifying an insurance company's policy problem.

Sincerely,
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