

Proponent Testimony on HB 37

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo,

My name is Emily Viall and I have lived with type 1 diabetes for 16 years.

In 2015, Ohio passed an emergency prescription refill law (HB 188) called Kevin's Law. It was named for Kevin Houdeshell. Kevin died because he was unable to refill his insulin prescription on a weekend.

HB 37 would expand that emergency refill law to allow for three emergency refills per year instead of one. It would also require insurance companies to cover these refills.

As a person living with type 1 diabetes, I understand that this could mean the difference between life and death.

There are many reasons someone may need an emergency refill of insulin, including a broken vial, damage caused by heat, changes in insulin needs due to illness or stress, and equipment failure.

It is also necessary for insurance to cover this emergency refill because insulin can be prohibitively expensive. Since 2009, the cost of insulin has risen from \$40 per vial to \$300.

When I was pregnant with my twins (*pictured below*), my insulin requirements increased by threefold. My insulin needs and blood sugars were under daily supervision by three doctors.

Due to pregnancy, the amount of insulin I needed changed every day, to the point where my prescription did not match what I needed. If I had not been meticulous, I could have easily run into a situation where I was out of insulin. If I had had financial concerns, I could have ended up in a horrific situation, without insulin, causing irreparable damage to my unborn babies in a matter of hours.

If that had happened, **it could have led to death and/or disability for not one, but *three* people.**

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

Sincerely,

Emily Viall

