

Honorable Stephen A. Huffman
Chair, House Health Committee
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Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the House Health Committee, Retirement and Aging Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on House Bill 241, which would create a diabetes registry in Ohio.

My youngest daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes on February 9, 2009. This date is etched in our minds for several reasons. We were in disbelief. First, we have a very healthy daughter, who was and still is slim, athletic and smart. She takes vitamins and eats a healthy balanced diet. Second, no one in our family had or has Type 1 Diabetes and as far as we knew at that time, there was only a genetic component or rationale for this diagnosis. Third, a local emergency room here in Columbus mis-diagnosed it as the flu. The original hospital that we took her to missed all of her symptoms, though I explained them clearly, and sent us back home with a very ill daughter. She almost died. Obviously, the hospital was also in disbelief.

Which leads me to one of the reasons why I am speaking to you today. Diabetes symptoms are not always obvious. There is still a lot to be learned. Patients, hospitals, doctors and families will all benefit, long term, by having information and details associated with a large cohort of cases, the information that an Ohio Diabetes Registry would provide.

Type 1 Diabetes is growing. In my daughter's high school graduating class, which only included 95 students, there were 4 students with Type 1. That is 4% of a small population. The national average is 1% of the population. Shouldn't we take the time to ask ourselves why? Why Ohio, why Columbus, why these increases, why these teens? Shouldn't we also ask how? How does our state compare to the rest of the nation? How do various Ohio counties compare with each other? Capturing data through the Ohio Diabetes Registry will help to answer these questions and hopefully help pinpoint answers.

As you already know, having diabetes is very costly, not only for families, but for insurance companies and for our state. The obvious daily requirements to survive this life-long illness include insulin, meters, test strips, pumps, syringes, fast

acting sugar sources and other expensive medical equipment. The hidden costs such as cell phone communication, missed days at school or work, mandatory WiFi connection, as example, also add up. When new, less expensive or more accurate medication and devices are available, families and the state could save money in the long run. With the information that could be obtained via the registry, our state would have information that could help budget these costs better. State Leaders would have the information needed to influence the state Insurance Board, so that the best standard of care for all diabetic citizens could be made affordable.

Finally, I believe the Ohio Registry information could assist in finding and communicating a cure for diabetes someday. My husband and I together spend at least 20 hours each week working on a volunteer basis and have personally donated to organizations that are searching for a cure for diabetes. It would be wonderful to know that should our dream of a cure come true someday, that our own state, the great state of Ohio, is poised to be able to deliver this cure to its citizenry. The Ohio Diabetes Registry will help gather information for research and help easily disseminate information to Ohioans, should a cure be found.