

Dear Chair Susan Manchester,

My name is Antoinette Worsham a Cincinnati native. Thank you for hearing the case on the HB212 bill. I would like to share how important this bill means to me and my family. The program has helped my daughters since 2011 when my oldest daughter was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes and my youngest diagnosed in 2013. I had employer insurance, was over income guidelines for Medicaid, but was eligible for CMH (BCMh). In April 2017, my daughter Antavia Lee-Worsham died in her sleep from DKA at the young age of 22. Antavia had just aged off CMH; then BCMh not 6 months prior to her passing. My daughter's death has impacted our family tremendously. After, Antavia aged off CMH she started rationing her insulin, a lifesaving medication that type 1 diabetics need to live, or they will die. No physical exercise diet or pill form would save a type 1 diabetic. With no help or resources, she turned to eating less and going days without her medication until she went into DKA and died. I was a single mom, working two jobs caring for 4 children two who were disabled and did not realize the cut off age for BCMh. Unfortunately, we did not find out until one day Antavia went to the pharmacy to get her insulin and was told it would cost over \$500. At that time, I was working a great job with employer insurance and a high deductible. We were devastated again with nowhere to turn. It saddens me because Antanique my youngest daughter will be 21 on June 9, 2021 and has already received her term letter. CMH covers all her diabetes care management. Antanique is on Dexcom a CGM (continuous glucose monitor) and will soon go back to finger sticks. The CGM helps her manage her blood sugar high and lows. It is linked to my phone so I can help her manage her blood sugars as well. Under my current insurance, I have a \$3800 deductible and 20% coinsurance. The CGM cost over \$11,000 and every three months \$1,000 for her transmitter and sensors something we cannot afford without the help of CMH. At this time Antanique insulin is 100% covered under my employer plan just her insulin. As mentioned, her Dexcom and doctor visits are covered under CMH. With the economy being as it is, I do not know when that will end or how long I will be at my current employer. Antanique is a college student and works part-time. She is studying undergrad law. She really needs CMH to help her live a longer and healthier life.

I have been working with Ohio legislatures on bills to help diabetics and even founded a nonprofit organization T1Diabetes Journey Inc to assist diabetics through their maintenance journeys and spread diabetes awareness in the community. Recently, Governor Dewine declared April 26<sup>th</sup> as DKA Day in Ohio and my Mayor, Mayor Cranley did in Hamilton County in honor of Antavia and other diabetics who have been impacted. In 2019, I was invited by Late Congressman Elijah Cummings to testify how the high cost of insulin impacted my family and have been featured in numerous articles. In 2018/2019, I was invited by the PAC of CMH to share my story. At that time, I shared how important it is for type 1 diabetics to continue to receive assistance past the age of 21, but I feel my story was unheard. Thank God for the federal law that children are covered until age 26 under their parents plans, but that does not help those who have high deductible health plans.

Again, I appreciate you taking the opportunity to hear how important bill HB212 is important to many Americans as myself across Ohio. I, like other Americans would be honored if the bill would pass and when it passes to allow those who are under 26 to become re-eligible. I am in fear the same will happen to Antanique. I do not want to lose another daughter at a young age.

Sincerely,

Antoinette Worsham

