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Higher Education & Career Readiness

Gayle L. Manning
State Representative

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the Ohio House Health Committee, thank you for allowing Dr. Liston and me the opportunity to testify on House Bill 305.

According to the most recent National Diabetes Statistics Report, 34.2 million Americans—1 in 10—have diabetes. The average list price of insulin increased 11% annually from 2001 to 2018. I have spoken before about Kevin Houdeshell, a young man who tragically lost his life because he was unable to get his insulin prescription refilled. During my work on legislation to ensure life-saving medication is dispensed in an emergency situation to patients, I heard many stories of patients who ration their insulin supply because they are unable to afford it.

House Bill 305, if passed, would institute an out-of-pocket expense of no more than \$35 for a 30 day supply of insulin for an insured patient. Thirteen states have passed copay cap legislation. In West Virginia, insulin copays are capped at \$100 for a 30-day supply for those with commercial insurance. A Texas law recently enacted caps copays at \$15 for each prescription per month for those with commercial insurance. A decision to ration insulin is one that a diabetic should never have to make.

Representative Liston has tremendous knowledge in this space, and I would like to thank her for including me as a joint sponsor on HB 305. Members, we stand ready to answer your questions at this time.