



REPRESENTATIVE MUNIRA ABDULLAHI

HOUSE DISTRICT 09

Insurance Committee

H.B. 348 Sponsor Testimony
May 22, 2024

Thank you Chairman Lampton, Vice Chair Barhorst, & Ranking Member Jarrells.

It is my honor to introduce Representative Hall's and I's bi-partisan bill, HB 348, the Insulin Reduction Act. Following the National Inflation Reduction Act, which accomplished the remarkable feat of capping the cost of Insulin to 35 dollars for nearly 4 million seniors on Medicare with diabetes, H.B. 348 our Insulin Reduction Bill, aims to expand this national step toward affordable vital medication for all Ohioans. In our step forward, our bill, The Insulin Reduction Act, caps the co share cost of insulin and dispensary devices at 35 dollars.

For those unfamiliar, Insulin is an essential hormone vital to our wellbeing and safety. Most bodies produce it naturally, and those with diabetes or other health issues have trouble producing enough or any at all. Ohioans with diabetes rely on injecting it to ensure they do not end up sick or, worse, dead. Nearly 1 million adults in the state of Ohio have been diagnosed with diabetes, including myself. My real-world experiences as a diabetic Ohioan informs my passion for this issue and the greater issue of equitable healthcare.

Comparatively, on the international scale, the cost of Insulin in America is nearly ten times the world average. The average price in America is

99 dollars, while it ranges from 21 to, as little as, 8 dollars in countries like Mexico, Canada, and South Korea—a fraction of what Americans are paying for this vital medication. The staggering cost of Insulin is burdensome to all those who depend on this life-saving medication.

According to Health Policy Ohio, Despite Americans paying so much more,, when measuring Ohio’s performance on population health outcomes and healthcare spending, Ohio ranks 40th out of 50 states on adult diabetes. In addition Ohio ranks 31st out of 51 (including D.C.) on diabetes with long-term complications.

The Insulin Reduction Act will dramatically and positively impact these statistics and the real lives of Ohioans with diabetes. Especially those who are most vulnerable like our youth, Veterans, lower-income and POC communities by capping the cost of this life-sustaining medication. This is just the first step of a long process to making health care accessible and equitable for All Ohions. So that no one in our state has to make the choice of paying for life saving healthcare(in this case, insulin) or putting food on table.

I’ll now turn it over to Representative Hall.