April 4, 2024

The Honorable JD Vance

U.S Senator for Ohio

Dear Senator Vance,

My name is Madison Whittaker, and I am a nursing student at Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing in Sandusky Ohio. I will be graduating in May 2024 as a registered nurse. Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing provides its students with outstanding education, hands-on experience, and preparation for our careers as registered nurses.

I am writing you regarding Ohio Senate Bill No. 61, cap cost sharing for prescription insulin drugs. Diabetes diagnoses are on the rise substantially. In 2021 38.4 million Americans, or 11.6% of Americans were living with diabetes. Of that 38.4 million nearly 1 million of them are in Ohio, and that does not include children in Ohio who are insulin dependent. This number includes all ages from children to adults, and both type 1 and type 2 diabetes. 8.4 million Americans rely on insulin to survive and the cost of insulin in the Unites States is 10 times more than other countries. People are having to ration their insulin by taking less than they need or skipping doses, or they just completely stop taking it because they cannot afford it. This puts them at major risk for life threatening complications of diabetes. These life-threatening complications are putting people in the hospital which will cost more than their monthly supply of insulin would have. Nobody should have to choose between feeding their family or buying their insulin.

In addition to the insulin itself, there is the cost of equipment like needles and syringes these people may need to administer their insulin. High out of pocket costs for people with diabetes results in non-compliance with their treatment regimen and leads to a rapid decline in the persons health. Progression of heart disease, chronic kidney disease, nerve damage, risk of stroke, and delayed wound healing are common in diabetic patients especially those who are non-compliant. I feel that delaying the passing of this bill is hurting the state of Ohio and is detrimental to the health of our population.

Please greatly consider supporting the passage of this bill, and supporting your fellow Ohioans who rely on insulin daily to survive.

Sincerely,

Madison L. Whittaker

1032 Eagle Ridge Dr

Huron, OH 44839

Mwhit198@gamil.com

812-968-4232