

January 10, 2022

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

Our organizations speak for the nation's diabetes community — a group of more than 34 million Americans who bear a disproportionate share of the nation's medical costs and who account for \$1 in every \$3 spent on drugs in the United States today. We recognize that discussions continue on drug affordability in the context of the proposed Build Back Better legislation or through other vehicles. We write to respectfully urge that, whatever the vehicle, you support the swift passage of a national insulin co-pay cap, which offers urgent hope and relief for the growing population of Americans with diabetes who rely on insulin to live. Without such legislation, which would cap the out-of-pocket cost of insulin at \$35 per month, there is little hope that people with diabetes will be equipped to afford their medication, and there is continued risk that one in four patients who are insulin dependent will have to keep rationing their supply, skipping doses and risking their lives because they cannot afford the medication needed to keep them alive.

This dire situation is especially acute in West Virginia, where diabetes is 50 percent more prevalent than the national average. Some 268,000 West Virginians live with diabetes today, and this population includes an outsize number of the state's older and lower income residents.

These West Virginians, and tens of millions of other Americans, are counting on you for help. With your support for the passage of a national insulin co-pay cap, you can make history for insulin affordability and save countless lives in the diabetes community. Particularly during the COVID-19 epidemic, when un-managed and under-treated diabetes has made our community deeply vulnerable to the worst of the pandemic's outcomes — and when 40 percent of fatalities have occurred among people with diabetes — the need for accessible and affordable insulin has never been greater.

Time is running out for too many people with diabetes, especially with the newest wave of COVID-19 upon us. Please make these West Virginians and other Americans with diabetes a priority and consider supporting a path forward for people with diabetes that can, at long last, create a national insulin co-pay cap. We thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Diabetes Association
American Podiatric Medical Association

Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists
Black Women's Health Imperative
Certification Board for Diabetes and Care Education
Children with Diabetes
College Diabetes Network
Diabetes Leadership Council
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition
DiabetesSisters
diaTribe
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Kidney Foundation
Pediatric Endocrine Society
T1D Exchange