

February 15, 2022

Testimony in Support of LD 1636 An Act To Reduce Prescription Drug Costs by Using International Pricing

I am a 79 year old diabetic man. Other than normal ailments that all of us have from time to time, my life is unaffected by my diabetes. I see my physician's assistant and diabetic nurse regularly and take all of my prescribed medications. Except at the end of the year. Then, I don't take my daily injection. I either skip days or reduce dosages, or both. That's because of the cost.

My annual expense for drugs is over \$4,800, most of which, thankfully, is covered by my insurance. But my "out of pocket cost" is over \$1,200, in addition to my insurance premiums.

At the end of the year, or actually at the beginning of a new year, I pay \$638.12 for a three-month supply of the injection drug, Basaglar. I need to pay this as a lump sum, or I cannot get the prescription. Frankly, I thought it was because I was in the donut hole, but upon inquiry if found out my insurance requires an upfront deductible for a year's cost. I ended up putting it on a credit card, since I didn't dare do without the medication for a long period. I take other prescription drugs at the same time, but the costs, or at least my copay for them, are manageable.

I am not sure I will be able to pay this cost in future years, but I can only take things as they come. I do hope that the cost of these drugs will be lower in the future. I realize that drug companies need to pay for their research to design new drugs, but I would think after a period of time, the investment has been recouped and the cost of a drug can be maintained and not increased, or even lowered. I don't understand why drug prices in the U.S. are so much greater than in other countries.

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