

TESTIMONY FOR SB0353

Health Insurance - Prescription Insulin Drugs - Limits on Copayment and Coinsurance (Insulin Cost Reduction Act)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Clarence K. Lam

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: N/A

Person Submitting: Pamela A. Bell
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Position: FAVORABLE

From a personal perspective, I believe that the current market cost of insulin is unethical, unnecessary, and an egregious attempt by the drug industry to profit from an essential, life-saving medication that has been in use to treat diabetes since the 1920s.

SB0353 is beneficial for many people with diabetes and the co-pay in MD will be lower than that of CMS. While the Bill limits the amount that insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations can charge for copayments or coinsurance for a covered prescription insulin drug, the Bill does not address the needs of diabetics who are not insured.

I recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee **with amendments**: it is imperative to subsidize the cost of insulin for individuals without insurance who do not qualify for State Medicaid or Medicare programs.