

Bill Number: HB 0134
Individual Name: Michael Lewandowski, representing self
Date: 6 February 2020
Committee: Health and Government Operations
Individual Position: Support for favorable report on HB 0134

Testimony: Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and Committee Members – Thank you for hearing my testimony in support of House Bill 134.

The media has made the public aware of the increasing cost of insulin, reporting anecdotal stories of individuals who have been forced to make difficult choices among rent, food, other necessities, and insulin needed to sustain their health. If we allow manufacturers and insurers to continue charging excessive amounts for insulin, the medical costs for patients will increase as a result of the medical complications of not taking their insulin as needed and medically directed.

As a Type 1 diabetic, the price increases for insulin have cost me more than money. They have cost me my car, my job, my home, and my vision - and that may not be the final cost. Additionally, it could cost me my kidneys, my fingers, my toes, and eventually my life. Many of us have had to pay more than our fair share for the price of insulin. I encourage you to vote favorably on House Bill 134, so no one else is forced to actually pay an arm and a leg for this life-sustaining medicine. Thank you.