

Madame Chair- Senator Wiklund

Health and Human Services Committee

SF 120

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

I am writing in support of SF 120 – Co-Payments limitations for prescription drugs and related medical supplies prescribed to treat chronic disease.

My Name is Nicole Smith-Holt and I am the ambassador for T1international and a member of the #MNinsulin4all advocacy group. I am testifying in the support of this bill.

In my opinion this bill is very much need in the state of MN and at the federal level. The cost of diabetes is taking a toll on the health and lives of the people in MN. I hear daily the struggles that people go through to afford not only insulin but the diabetic supplies that are required to live a healthy life. I hear from families who are paying more than 50% of their household income for just the basics in testing supplies, leaving no money left in the budget to afford items like CGMS or pumps, CGM and pumps can and would make life for a diabetic much more manageable, but unfortunately not many can afford the additional cost. A month of CGM supplies can easily cost \$2-3,000 without insurance and easily \$200-300 with insurance, a pump can easily cost \$6-7,000 without insurance and with insurance can cost \$1,000-3,000.

I am allergic to cats and to wasp stings, I have in the past had very severe allergic reactions to bee stings, but my life is in danger if I get stung by wasps. I am required to carry an epi pen. The last time I was able to fill my prescription was in Aug of 2019- I still have that epi pen- it expired in Dec 2020. I do not dispose of it because of cost, I do not refill it due to cost, I take the chance that if I were to get stung that the expired pen would work good enough to allow me enough time for a first responder to get to me.

I ask that you pass this bill, I ask that you help to make the lives of people living with chronic illnesses more affordable and manageable. Preventive measures now helps to make our lives healthier, preventing costly hospital admissions and costly long term health complications.

Nicole Smith-Holt-T1international/MNinsulin4all

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