



Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

On behalf of the American Diabetes Association I want to express our support for Senate File 4526 to remove the sunset for the safety net insulin program.

There is an insulin affordability crisis in American that impacts an estimated 8.4 million people with diabetes who require it to live. Insulin affordability is a health equity issue that disproportionately impacts under-resourced communities, including aging populations, rural communities, and communities of color. This program is critical to ensuring that people with diabetes who require insulin to live have access to an insulin safety net.

A total of 19.8% of middle-income people and 14.6% of low-income persons reported rationing their insulin. This means they are skipping doses or are taking less insulin than they need to appropriately manage their diabetes. This threatens their health and their life and increases the financial burden being put on individuals and the healthcare system. This legislation will ensure that this reliable program for people to access an emergency supply of insulin is able to continue, and ultimately alleviate pressure to ration it.

No one should have to miss out on a life-saving medication they need because the system puts in financially out of reach. On behalf of people with diabetes, ADA urges you to support. With affordable insulin, people with diabetes are better positioned to stay healthy and productive, out of the hospital, and away from expensive and potentially disabling and deadly complications. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Carissa Kemp

Director of State Government Affairs, American Diabetes Association