

SUBMITTED TESTIMONY

TO: The Honorable Jene Vickrey, Chair
And Members of the Insurance Committee

FROM: Angie Kirchner – Mother of a Type 1 Diabetic 7-year old

RE: SB 2557 AN ACT concerning insurance; relating to certain health benefit plans; certain prescription drug benefits; establishing a \$100 maximum out-of-pocket cost-share per month per covered person for prescription insulin.

DATE: February 12, 2020

Good afternoon Chairman Vickrey and Members of the Committee:

I am respectfully submitting these comments as a **proponent** to SB 2557.

I am a mother of a 7-year old handsome little boy born on July 4th, 2012. He is a completely healthy thin little guy who was diagnosed last year, 13 days after his 7th birthday as a **Type 1** Diabetic.

His body is slowly decreasing insulin production so he is currently and will continue to be on insulin injections for the rest of his life before every meal or snack as the carbs require. His insulin needs will increase as his pancreas completely stops making insulin. He deals with high and low blood sugars and along with that comes moods, unable to focus and at times his behavior would seem as if he is high on something, when in fact, his sugar is high. Type 1 is different in some ways than Type 2 even though they are both labeled Diabetes, (the silent killer). Type 2 can most times be controlled with an insulin pill or injection and diet. Type 1 can only be controlled by insulin injections, without it, they DIE. What mother or father would want this end result?

Every, single day and night parents have the worry if their child's sugars are too high or too low. Can we go to sleep? Will our baby wake up tomorrow? Do I need to wake up in the middle of the night to check sugars? This is a lot of stress on parents and we do not need the worry of the high cost of insulin to save our children.

Please accept my testimony as a **proponent** of HB2557 and if there were any way to modify the bill and lower the cap further, that would be even better. Insulin is expensive and none of us want to lose our babies.

Thank you for your time.