



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1632		DATE: 1/16/2024
COMMITTEE: Healthcare Reform		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ADRIANA PAEZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: paezenator@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/15/2024 4:35 PM
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I believe life-saving medications like epinephrine and insulin should be affordable for all who need them. No one should have to choose sickness or death because they couldn't afford their prescriptions.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2024 11:59 PM
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This is Common-Sense Legislation and provides Consumer Protections to Missourians. See my House Committee Video Archived Testimony.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: AVYAY SURAMPALLI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE POLICY POD		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: ST. LOUIS	STATE: MO	ZIP: 63103
EMAIL: avyay.surampalli@slu.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/15/2024 7:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Insulin is a crucial drug for maintaining many diabetic Americans' health by regulating their blood sugar levels. Approximately 38.4 million Americans and 537,000 Missourians suffer from diabetes. Clearly, there is a massive demand in Missouri (and in the USA) for affordable insulin. However, right now, insulin price is a real problem. Simply put, the high cost is harmfully impacting patients. To give some background, on average, a vial of insulin costs \$98.70, but the production cost for each vial is only \$2-4. This high cost contributes to the statistic that 1 in 4 diabetics have reported that the cost of insulin impacts their use of insulin, resulting in insulin rationing. The problem is so substantial that even the American Diabetes Association emphasizes that the cost of insulin has caused 27% of diabetics to choose between insulin and housing. Moving on to the benefits, the main one for reducing insulin co-payments is that everyone would have access to insulin. That increase in accessibility would reduce the number of ER visits due to diabetic ketoacidosis, a condition that results when patients do not have access to insulin. Not to mention, ER visits is a major factor of America's spiraling healthcare costs. As a state, we are not alone in passing insulin copay caps. As of today in the United States, 25 other states have passed bills that reduce the cost of insulin for local state residents (including states like Texas, Illinois, Washington, and more). There have been multiple studies that show how effective this bill has been in those states. Furthermore, some opponents, we realize, will argue that reducing the insulin copay would offset the cost on insurance companies, resulting in higher premiums for all. However, the effect of increased premiums is small. For example, studies have shown in multiple states including Kentucky that there was only a \$0.07 to \$0.24 increase in monthly premiums as a result of a decreased insulin copayment. Overall, the benefits of increasing insulin access are vast and realistically have no downside. Even if health insurance premiums go up a minuscule amount, it is justified to save patient lives by decreasing the copayment, making insulin more affordable for diabetics in Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHAKSHU GUPTA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: chakgupta@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/15/2024 10:13 AM
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As a physician, I am in support of this bill. A significant number of Missourians need diabetic drugs; untreated or poorly treated diabetes leads to many other health conditions; the cost of untreated diabetes is high and impact the entire healthcare system; and many patients cannot afford to pay high cost of diabetic drugs, this bill will go along way to help our communities.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DON BICKHAUS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: doniibecky@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2024 2:15 PM
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Need to keep the costs of these important medications at an affordable price. Please pass through committee.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GINA MEYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jemeyer1955@comcast.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2024 10:31 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
Making life-saving drugs available to people that need them is just common sense. Pass this bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: JEFF HOWELL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-636-5151
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 113 MADISON		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JORGEN SCHLEMEIER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PHARMACY ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 213 E. CAPITOL AVE.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JUSTUS RHODES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: justus.rho4@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/8/2024 5:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Insulin costs in Missouri and America as a whole are grossly overpriced compared to those in both bordering countries of Canada and Mexico. This provision would be a great first step in Missouri reigning in medical insurers who refuse to do their basic duty to provide healthcare to those who need it, and are paying the insurer to do. This legislation would give teeth to our government to hold insurers accountable, and stop them from the price gouging of working-poor Missourians across the state. I've heard of far too many cases of people in other states paying over 300 or 400 dollars for life-saving medication. Insurers have been double dipping into Missourians' wallets by telling us to give these insurers our money to assure healthcare coverage, only to greedily price gouge us when it's their turn to provide the coverage for which we paid. They have no right to act as profit seekers first, and healthcare providers second. Missourians health should come before their profit schemes, always. For that reason, this legislation must get on the floor to pass, so as to give Missourians a chance at financial relief from rogue insurance companies refusing to do their jobs and stand up for Missourians who need these to survive.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2024 2:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This proposed bill is a crucial step toward ensuring affordable access to life-saving medication for individuals dependent on epinephrine auto-injectors and prescription insulin drugs. By mandating that insurers cap the maximum amount an insured individual pays for a 30-day supply of covered medications at \$35 for insulin and \$100 for epinephrine injectors, the bill takes a commendable stand against exorbitant costs that often burden patients. This protective measure, irrespective of the quantity or type of prescribed medication, alleviates financial strain on those in need, promoting a healthier and more equitable society.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LISA ALBRIGHT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: piccadilly_lisa@hotmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/15/2024 1:07 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My nephew is a diabetic and has to choose between medicine and food. When he can buy food, he tends to buy cheap food which keeps him unwell. He also cannot work for long periods of time, which makes his situation a cruel cycle. He would like to work, have money for healthy food and be able to take care of himself medically. It is becoming a normal problem for our citizens to become broken because of our health systems.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARY WAGGENER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: marywaggener@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/8/2024 9:57 PM
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As someone who has to purchase epinephrine injections due to allergies to bee stings, I fully support limiting the cost of injections to \$100 as the cost has skyrocketed in the last 15 years.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELANIE BUSSE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: melbusse7@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/15/2024 9:34 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I believe that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all US residents. This bill offers a solution to ensure that people can afford the medication they need to live. They won't have to choose between their medicine and rent or food. It may also prevent complications that may arise if someone does not get the medicine they need.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2024 2:21 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This proposed bill is a crucial step toward ensuring affordable access to life-saving medication for individuals dependent on epinephrine auto-injectors and prescription insulin drugs. By mandating that insurers cap the maximum amount an insured individual pays for a 30-day supply of covered medications at \$35 for insulin and \$100 for epinephrine injectors, the bill takes a commendable stand against exorbitant costs that often burden patients. This protective measure, irrespective of the quantity or type of prescribed medication, alleviates financial strain on those in need, promoting a healthier and more equitable society.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2024 7:14 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/15/2024 3:09 PM
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People living with diabetes need to be able to manage the disease and access the insulin they need, to decrease the risk of developing additional costly and burdensome complications including heart disease, kidney failure, and amputations. This legislation offers a solution to ensure that people with diabetes can afford the medication they need to live.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUZANNE OPPERMAN, APRN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: suzannesmentalhealthwellness@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/8/2024 7:12 PM
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In an increasing expenses for health care, the price of a prescriptions also increase. The insured's co-pay must change proportionately to increases in coverage. When a critical drug such as insulin and epinephrine injectors increasing costs more for the insured's coverage must maintain the same proportion of coverage in medications.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: VERONICA DE LA GARZA		PHONE NUMBER: 512-797-5430	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION		TITLE: DIRECTOR, STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 2451 CRYSTAL DRIVE, SUITE 900			
CITY: ARLINGTON		STATE: VA	ZIP: 22202
EMAIL: vdelagarza@diabetes.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2024 2:22 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The Honorable Kent Haden Chair, Healthcare Reform Members of the Healthcare Reform Committee Dear Chairman Haden and Members of the Committee: The American Diabetes Association (ADA) is writing to ask your support for House Bill (HB) 1632 by Representative Sean Pouche. HB 1632 caps the total amount of cost sharing that an insured person is required to pay for insulin (under a state regulated plan) at an amount not to exceed \$35 per 30- day period, regardless of the amount or type of insulin needed. Diabetes is an epidemic in the United States and the cost of managing it can be unsustainable. People with diabetes continue to face a crisis. Advances in research and development and technology have been life-changing, but the chemical formulary for insulin has not changed since the 1990s. Missourians with diabetes are sometimes forced to choose between insulin and rent or insulin and food to survive. When people with diabetes are unable to manage the disease and access the insulin they need it increases the risk of developing additional costly and burdensome complications including heart disease, kidney failure, and amputations. As it stands, 25 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws to limit out-of-pocket monthly spending for insulin and as of January 1, 2023, all Medicare beneficiaries will have their out-of-pocket monthly spending for insulin capped at \$35. Between 2002 and 2013 the cost of insulin nearly tripled . When people cannot afford the medication necessary to manage their diabetes, they scale back or forego the care they need to manage their health or are forced to choose between paying for their medication or rent, utilities, and other necessities. Attached please find a fact sheet with some studies that found limiting out-of-pocket monthly spending on insulin either did not impact premiums or if they did, it was described as negligible. This legislation offers a solution to ensure that people with diabetes can afford the medication they need to live. I respectfully ask that you support HB 1632. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at vdelagarza@diabetes.org. Sincerely, Veronica De La Garza, Director, State Government Affairs, American Diabetes Association



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL GROTE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-424-5120	
REPRESENTING: CVS HEALTH		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 638			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65205
EMAIL: michaelgrote@me.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2024 5:10 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL HENDERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-4241	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI INSURANCE COALITION		TITLE: GENERAL COUNSEL AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 220B E HIGH ST			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: mike@moinsurancecoalition.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2024 12:30 PM	
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The Missouri Insurance Coalition opposes HB 1632.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SEAN STEPHENSON		PHONE NUMBER: 240-909-1544	
REPRESENTING: PHARMACEUTICAL CARE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 325 7TH STREET NW			
CITY: WASHINGTON		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20004
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SHANNON COOPER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-890-1432	
REPRESENTING: AMERICA'S HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS; BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF KANSAS CITY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 208 MADISON			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/16/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAMELA K. GROW, M.D.		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: growmd@fidmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/15/2024 5:19 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Written Testimony HB 1632 Submitted 1-15-2024 House Healthcare Reform Committee Dear Chairman Haden and Committee Members, Thank you for considering my testimony. House Bill 1632 appears to be a government price-control bill targeting two vitally important prescription medicines: epinephrine autoinjectors to be used in the case of anaphylactic reactions, and injected insulin. Short of normal saline used to resuscitate the trauma victim in shock, or oxygen in a patient with inhalation burns, I cannot imagine any medications any more necessary for the preservation of life. It would be impossible to quantify the threat people would feel if denied these drugs in their time of need. Drug pricing in this country is as far away from a free market system as the other galaxies in the universe are from ours. The distortions in pricing are legion and complex. President Biden has forced this specific price-fixing scheme on us with his so-called Inflation Reduction Act, but the framework was laid by administrations of both parties, over many years. The responsibility for tampering with the free market must be shared. It is my opinion that price controls of these drugs will result in negative outcomes, including rationing, cost controls levied on producers, taxpayer-funded subsidies offered to producers, and ultimately the worst of all outcomes: shortages. Revered economists such as Friedrich Hayek and Henry Hazlitt have explained these effects. A brief discourse is found in Henry Hazlitt's book, Economics in One Lesson, in the chapter titled, "Government Price-Fixing." I would pray that there would be some way the state legislature could exert some influence over the price edicts from Washington, or, better yet, somehow exempt our state from them. Pamela K. Grow, M.D. Phelps County, MO