

Thank you, Chair Vickrey, and members of the House Committee on Insurance for giving me the time to provide testimony on the issue presented to you.

My name is Melissa Bryan and I am a volunteer with RESULTS, an organization founded upon the mission of ending poverty.

In 1923, Frederick Banting first synthesized insulin as a means of therapy for those with diabetes, yet abstained from putting his name on the patent. He believed it went against the Hippocratic oath that he made as a physician to profit from such a discovery. The patent was sold by his co-creators for merely \$1 describing that all who need it should have access to this life-saving medicine.

Today, 1 in 4 people with diabetes report cost-related underuse of the drug. Not adhering to one's prescribed insulin regimen can lead to hyperglycemia with effects such as nerve damage, blindness, and even kidney failure.

Studies have projected that, in the next 30 years, 21% of adults in the US will have diabetes. That is nearly 1 in 4 Americans being affected by this condition, with millions of people relying on insulin in order to lead a healthy life.

Unfortunately, the prices of the four most popular forms of insulin have skyrocketed in the past four years alone. Through shadowing in various clinics in the Topeka community, I have experienced firsthand the disheartening expression on patients' faces when having to discuss the price of a drug they simply cannot afford. This is not an uncommon conversation, medical professionals cannot provide the best quality of care to their patients when life-saving drugs are simply out of patients' reach. Life-saving drugs that can be made for exponentially less than they are sold.

We have seen bipartisan support in both Tennessee and Virginia for capping the price of a 30-day supply of insulin. Americans have been calling for the lowering of prescription drug prices, and they are listening. Both Senator Grassley (R-Iowa) and Senator Wyden (D-Ore.) have recently been investigating price gouging of prescription drugs, most importantly insulin, in hopes to bring accountability to the pharmaceutical industry.

I ask that you pass HB2557 out of committee and to urge colleagues' support to pass the legislation on the House floor. Americans have been calling for the lowering of insulin prices and we must act.