



Connected **for Life**

March 24, 2022

Chair Stephenson and Commerce Finance Committee

On behalf of the American Diabetes Association® (ADA) I would like to express our support for House File 3611 (HF 3611).

Increasingly, individuals are using co-pay coupons to help pay for expensive medications that a health care provider prescribes as their best course of treatment. Coupons distributed by the manufacturer are necessary for some patients to purchase life-saving medications, primarily those without generic alternatives. Unfortunately, insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers often negate this valuable assistance through “co-pay accumulator adjustment programs.” Whereas health plans will accept the coupons, they may not credit the amount toward the patient’s deductible or out-of-pocket maximum. This forces the patients to pay twice.

Diabetes is a serious disease and must be managed according to the needs of each individual person. The ADA believes that every person living with diabetes should have access to the care, treatments, tools, and information they need to successfully manage their diabetes. It is vital that people with diabetes have the opportunity to work with their health care providers to choose the most appropriate therapeutic option that best meets their individual needs at that particular time.

Blocking patient assistance can threaten the health of patients with chronic diseases like diabetes and lead to medication non-adherence and rationing. ADA research has shown that, for one in four insulin users, cost has impacted their use¹. Rationing or skipping doses of insulin is unsafe and can lead to costly and preventable emergency room and hospital visits.

Ensuring all people with and at risk for diabetes have access to adequate and affordable care is among ADA’s principal policy priorities. HF 3611 will help achieve that goal. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please direct them to me at ckemp@diabetes.org.

Thank you,

Carissa Kemp
Director of State Government Affairs

¹ ADA, https://diabetes.org/advocacy/insulin-and-drug-affordability?utm_source=diabetes-care-cost&utm_medium=website&utm_content=learn-more-1-btn&utm_campaign=ADV&s_src=online&s_subsrc=insulin-drug-affordability

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