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Dear Representative Ginal,

I am writing to convey our support if amended position for HB1009, The Diabetes Drug Pricing Transparency Act. The American Diabetes Association values transparency throughout the entire insulin supply chain, and we know the life or death importance that insulin plays in the lives of people with type 1, insulin-dependent type 2 and gestational diabetes. Greater transparency in pricing is crucial, as the price of insulin has increased astronomically in recent years, but the reasons for that increase aren't clear.

Numerous parties play a role in the production and delivery of insulin to patients – including drug manufacturers, wholesalers, insurers, pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and pharmacies – and the pricing negotiations that occur between them are often confidential. There is a need for transparency in the insulin supply chain to help consumers, advocates, and policymakers understand the factors affecting insulin costs. Solutions are only as good as the information used to create them, which is why we strongly encourage transparency by all parties involved in establishing the policies and processes that determine how much individuals pay for insulin. This is the first step in creating policies that will reduce skyrocketing costs and keep a steady supply of insulin within reach of all people who need it.

Between 2002 and 2013, the average price of insulin nearly tripled, creating financial hardships for people who rely on it to survive, including the 420,000 people in Colorado who currently live with the condition (almost 10% of the state). People with diabetes are at significant risk for serious complications including kidney failure, heart disease, stroke, blindness and lower-limb amputations, and are put at a much higher risk if they start rationing their insulin, or skipping doses completely, to save money.

We have met with Representative Roberts to discuss our proposed amendments, and are so thankful for his compassionate advocacy for people living with diabetes in Colorado. We look forward to working with the bill sponsor on diabetes friendly policies into the future. I apologize for being unable to attend the committee hearing on March 22nd, as I am leading a group of advocates to meet with members of Congress in D.C. that week.

I respectfully urge members of the committee to support any amendments offered by Representative Roberts that would more broaden the scope of the bill to include all parties of the insulin supply chain, to also include health plans and pharmacies.

We stand in strong support of the bill with said amendments.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to the state of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Christine Fallabel, MPH

Director of State Government Affairs and Advocacy
The American Diabetes Association
cfallabel@diabetes.org