

Chair Marble, Vice Chair Sonnenberg, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my story today.

My name is Sue Knipmeyer.

I am here today as a Grand Junction resident, a hard working Coloradan, and a person that lives with Type I diabetes, an autoimmune, hereditary disease.

I am only one of the thousands of people across Colorado who are desperate for relief from skyrocketing drug prices.

I have been taking insulin to treat my diabetes for 54 years. Without it I will die. My insulin costs me about \$649 a month and affording this life-saving medication has led me and my husband, Bill, to make real sacrifices.

My husband and I have worked hard our whole lives. We have played by the rules and we take responsibility for ourselves. I worked for Walmart before having to leave my job because of health related complications. Despite our hard work, we have had to file for bankruptcy and move in order to afford my insulin.

Advances in care are important for patients with diabetes, but we have no way of knowing if drug corporations are using their profits to invest in innovation. The fact is that insulin was invented in 1923 and hasn't changed much since then. As a patient, I live in fear of the cost of my insulin continuing to rise – insulin's cost has increased more than 300 percent in just the last ten years.

This is why I support House Bill 1009. Coloradans deserve to know how drug corporations and other players in the drug distribution pipeline are setting prices. No matter the price, I have to take my insulin to survive. For me, this is truly life or death.

I urge you to vote YES on House Bill 1009 to allow people with diabetes and the state of Colorado to see into the black box that is drug pricing. It is a vital first step to lowering drug prices for us all.

Thank you for your time.