

Beyond Type 1
1001 Laurel Street, Suite B
San Carlos, CA 94070

April 13, 2021

Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 673, An Act to Create the Insulin Safety Net Program

Dear Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in regard to LD 673, *An Act to Create the Insulin Safety Net Program*.

Beyond Type 1 is a nonprofit organization changing what it means to live with diabetes. Through platforms, programs, resources, and grants, Beyond Type 1 is uniting the global diabetes community and providing solutions to improve lives today. Founded in 2015 with a focus on education, advocacy and the path to a cure for Type 1 diabetes, Beyond Type 1 has grown to also include programs for those with Type 2 diabetes.

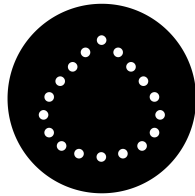
We believe that high quality, modern insulin must be available to people with diabetes regardless of employment or insurance status, across all demographics, without barriers and at an affordable and predictable price point. For individuals who rely on this life-essential drug, even a few days of rationing or complete lack of this medication can have devastating short- and long-term consequences.

We commend Senator Breen and the co-sponsors of this bill for recognizing that the list price of insulin, even with insurance, can be financially prohibitive for some Maine citizens and offering this legislation as a potential solution.

We would like to share our resource that renders much of this legislation duplicative. LD 673 could create not only administrative burdens to the Maine government and pharmacies in the state, but also unintended additional out-of-pocket expenses to people living with diabetes.

[GetInsulin.org](https://www.getinsulin.org)

In October of 2020, Beyond Type 1 launched [GetInsulin.org](https://www.getinsulin.org), a tool that connects anyone in the United States who needs insulin to urgent need and long-term patient assistance programs, links to low/no cost clinics and food banks, and additional resources.



On GetInsulin.org, users answer a few questions (such as location, insurance type, income, and type of insulin they take) then receive customized action plans to guide them through the access solutions and next steps needed. The site and plan details are available in English and Spanish, can be downloaded or emailed, with the option for follow-up reminders when life changes may happen.

GetInsulin.org is endorsed by a coalition of partners helping connect those in need to lower-cost insulin now, including the American Diabetes Association (ADA), the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists (ADCES), the Endocrine Society, Feeding America, JDRF, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA). GetInsulin.org is funded by Lilly, Viatrix, Novo Nordisk, and Sanofi.

Beyond Type 1 is committed to ensuring all programs are up-to-date and accurate and has recently created printed materials to raise awareness of the site and its valuable resources.

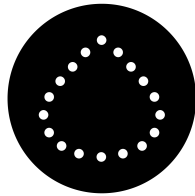
LD 673

We would like to make the Committee aware of the following:

- In Section 3 (Urgent need safety net), Subsection F: “The pharmacy may collect an insulin copayment from the eligible individual to cover the pharmacy’s cost of processing and dispensing in an amount not to exceed \$35 for the 30-day supply of insulin dispensed under Paragraph C.”
 - Lilly, Novo Nordisk, and Sanofi all have urgent need/immediate supply programs that cover the pharmacy’s cost of processing and dispensing paid by the manufacturer, rather than placing the copayment financial burden on the person with diabetes.
- Section 3 (Urgent need safety net), Subsection G outlines what information will be provided on a sheet dispensed by the pharmacy.
 - All information listed is already available at GetInsulin.org with additional resources.
 - Beyond Type 1 would be honored to work with the State of Maine to provide GetInsulin.org printed materials for distribution.
 - We recommend, however, that these be made available at not just pharmacies, but also wherever individuals who need insulin may meet with healthcare professionals. Often, individuals do not physically go to the pharmacy when they know they cannot afford their prescription.
- In Section 4 (Manufacturer’s patient assistance), Subsection A, the request for a manufacturer patient assistance program information to be provided to the board and meet requirements is duplicative.
 - All manufacturers already have patient assistance programs in place, located at GetInsulin.org and through the question process on the site, will direct individuals who may not meet requirements to additional resources such as copay cards or other programs, unlike LD 673.

www.BeyondType1.org

www.GetInsulin.org



- In Section (Manufacturer's patient assistance), Subsection F(2) requires a pharmacy to submit an order to the manufacturer and ship to the pharmacy and Subsection F(3) allows the pharmacy to collect a processing and dispensing payment not to exceed \$50 from the individual receiving insulin.
 - Not only does this potential payment put an unnecessary financial burden on the individual, but under the national patient assistance programs offered by each manufacturer, there is no processing and dispensing fee that must be paid.
- In Section 6 (Dissemination of information about program), the board is required to develop (and provide a URL link) an information sheet, describing the program and each insulin manufacturer's program, including contact information.
 - As mentioned above, Beyond Type 1's GetInsulin.org has printed materials that can be modified specifically for Maine. The link will always provide Maine citizens with the most up-to-date information on all programs available, including programs that are not considered patient assistance programs.
- In Section 10 (Repeal) states that this Insulin Safety Net Program will be repealed in 2027.
 - Unfortunately, individuals with diabetes will still have need for information, resources, and assistance to ensure access. Beyond Type 1 will continue to offer GetInsulin.org until such time that diabetes is cured or federal legislation is enacted to ensure that all people with diabetes have affordable access to insulin analogs.

We recognize that this bill was modeled after a similar program in Minnesota. At the time of its passage, GetInsulin.org did not exist, nor did the urgent need programs offered by the manufacturer. Additional insulin copay, cash pay, and patient assistance programs became available after the Minnesota bill became law.

With new resources available, much of this legislation is rendered duplicative. LD 673 will create an administrative and financial burden to pharmacies, patients, and the state government.

Thank you for recognizing that individuals who use insulin face financial barriers due to the high list price of insulin. We look forward to working pro bono with the state of Maine to promote these free resources and programs that help your citizens lead healthier lives.

Sincerely,

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Diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in April, 1983

www.BeyondType1.org
www.GetInsulin.org