

Sabrina Burbeck
Old Town

Chairwoman Sanborn, Chairwoman Tepler, members of the committee, thanks for having me here today.

My name is Sabrina Burbeck and I am from Old Town.

I am a mother, a sister, a daughter, and a health care worker. High drug prices have impacted me in every one of those roles.

When my youngest son was 18 months old, he was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. In order to survive, he relies on Humalog insulin. One vial of Humalog costs \$350. Thankfully, he is on MaineCare — but I live in constant fear of what I would do if he were to lose this coverage.

My brother is also diabetic. I watched my father and mother struggle over the years to pay for his medications — sometimes they were forced to choose between buying groceries and covering my brother's insulin.

My brother has had to change which kind of insulin he takes based on price — sometimes even rationing it to make the vials last longer. Nobody should have to make choices like this.

Two years ago, my father became seriously ill. The doctors told us he needed dialysis and numerous medications in order to survive. When my dad ultimately made the decision to not seek these treatments, I knew part of his reason was because he did not want the family to have one more medical cost to think about.

I knew he was thinking of my brother's insulin and my mom's limited income. I hate to think about the possibility that my father felt like a burden at the end of his life — all because of our constant stress over prescription costs and medical bills.

My family is not unique. I worked for years as a home health care worker, and every week I saw other families struggling under the high cost of prescription drugs.

As a home health aide, I went into my patients homes, hoping to make their lives a little easier as they struggled with their own health issues. And every week, I watched as my clients worried about how they would pay for their next bill at the pharmacy counter.

We need change.

There are so many families like mine and so many patients like my clients. Mainers all over the state are crippled by the cost of their prescription drugs.

I urge you to support LD 673 to ensure insulin is available to those who need it. But we need to go further: This entire package of bills would crack down on price gouging, hold drug companies accountable, and make prescription drugs more affordable for Mainers like my family.

Thank you for your time.