

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Molly Harish. I am a registered nurse, a resident of Camden, Maine and I live with type 1 diabetes. I'm also part of team that's making a documentary film called *Pay or Die*, which will tell the stories of Americans whose lives are threatened, and even taken, by the outrageous price of insulin in America. In fact, one of the stories we're telling will hit close to home for all of you here today - it's that of Charles Booker, former member of the KY House of Representatives and current candidate for US Senate, who, during his campaign for the KY House, wound up on death's doorstep as a result of rationing his insulin after he found himself unable to afford both groceries for his wife and children and the insulin that kept him alive. I tell you this not to promote the film, but to highlight the absurdity and the tragedy of the fact that the film even needs to be made in the first place.

When I was diagnosed eight years ago with type 1 diabetes, the realization that I was suddenly and perpetually just days away from death without the life-support that is my insulin terrified me. And that was *before* I even knew about the price tag it carried. But when I started connecting with fellow members of the type 1 diabetes community across the country, insulin (un)affordability was an issue that came up again and again. It was through this community that I came to join the team behind the documentary film I mentioned, volunteering my time in a desperate attempt to effect change.

I follow an organization on social media called Mutual Aid Diabetes, MAD for short, where diabetics across the country volunteer their time to field urgent requests for assistance in accessing life-sustaining insulin. Regular Americans are volunteering their time to keep their fellow Americans - most of whom they will never meet - from falling through the cracks of our broken system. We are in a dire situation. And frankly, an embarrassing one.

As a Mainer, a registered nurse, and a person with type one diabetes, I'm telling you that we cannot afford to not entertain absolutely all potential solutions to this crisis. It is unconscionable that the lives of my fellow Mainers are in jeopardy because of the price of a medication that came to market over 20 years ago, and is estimated to cost around \$5 to manufacture.

I urge you to support LD1729. We can waste no time in starting the investigation into the feasibility of producing insulin in Maine. Mainers are being held hostage, told to pay or die, with every day that passes. Thank you.