

**Missouri State Medical Association
House of Delegates**

Resolution #5
(A-20)

Introduced by: Alex Shimony, Washington University School of Medicine; Calli Morris, University of Missouri School of Medicine; Samantha Lund, Washington University School of Medicine; Lydia Von Tersch, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences; Priya Jain, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine; Scott Berndt, University of Missouri School of Medicine; and the St. Louis Metropolitan Medical Society

Subject: Ensuring Affordable Insulin

Referred to: Reference Committee A

WHEREAS, it is estimated that in 2017, 492,000 adult Missourians (prevalence of 10.4%) were living with physician-diagnosed diabetes, and in 2016 that lead to 15,494 emergency room visits, 18,520 inpatient hospitalizations, and 1,508 deaths attributable to diabetes¹; and

WHEREAS, insulin is included on the Model List of Essential Medicines designated by the World Health Organization, indicating it should be available at an affordable price for individuals and communities²; and

WHEREAS, nationally the average price of insulin has nearly doubled from \$234 a month in 2012 to \$450 a month in 2016³; and

WHEREAS, high out-of-pocket medication costs can lead to decreased medication adherence among persons with diabetes, especially those who are already economically disadvantaged, and patients who report cost-related underuse of insulin were three times more likely to have poor glycemic control; moreover up to a third of those patients did not tell their physician about their underuse^{4,5}; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Endocrine Society called for policy changes to increase access to affordable insulin, including limiting co-pays and providing human insulin at no cost to patients⁶; and

WHEREAS, Cigna Express Scripts recently capped the 30-day cost of insulin at \$25 for persons with diabetes, but this only benefits Missourians on their private plans⁷; and

WHEREAS, other states, such as Colorado and Illinois, have passed laws capping co-payments for insulin at \$100 a month for insured individuals⁸⁻¹¹; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that our Missouri State Medical Association support legislation capping out-of-pocket insulin costs at an affordable level for individuals and further encourage our American Medical Association to support similar legislation.

Fiscal Note:

Current Policy:

References:

1. Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. *Missouri Diabetes Report*; 2019.
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3. Biniek J, Johnson W. *Spending on Individuals with Type 1 Diabetes and the Role of Rapidly Increasing Insulin Prices*; 2019. <https://www.healthcostinstitute.org/research/publications/entry/spending-on-individuals-with-type-1-diabetes-and-the-role-of-rapidly-increasing-insulin-prices>.
4. Piette JD, Heisler M, Wagner TH. Problems paying out-of-pocket medication costs among older adults with diabetes. *Diabetes Care*. 2004;27(2):384-391. doi:10.2337/diacare.27.2.384
5. Herkert D, Vijayakumar P, Luo J, et al. Cost-Related Insulin Underuse Among Patients With Diabetes. *JAMA Intern Med*. 2019;179(1):112-114. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2018.5008
6. Society E. *Increasing Insulin Affordability: An Endocrine Society Position Statement.*; 2018. <https://www.endocrine.org/news-and-advocacy/position-statements/increasing-insulin-affordability>.
7. Herper M. Faced with rising anger on drug prices, Cigna plans to reduce insulin costs to \$25 a month for many patients. STAT news. <https://www.statnews.com/2019/04/03/cigna-reduce-insulin-cost/>. 2019.
8. Romo V. Colorado Caps Insulin Co-Pays At \$100 For Insured Residents. *National Public Radio*. <https://www.npr.org/2019/05/24/726817332/colorado-caps-insulin-co-pays-at-100-for-insured-residents>. May 24, 2019.
9. Roberts D, Donovan K, Priola K. *HB19-1216 Reduce Insulin Prices*. US; 2019.
10. Munks J. Illinois lawmakers approve measure to cap insulin costs at \$100 for 30-day supply. *Chicago Tribune*. <https://www.chicagotribune.com/politics/ct-illinois-legislature-insulin-price-cap-20191114-ocjrlltqstbh3dbajs62mdxzdnq-story.html>. November 14, 2019.
11. Manar A. *Illinois SB667 Pricing-Prescription Insulin*. US; 2019.