

Thank you Chairman Jene Vickney and Members of the House Committee on Insurance for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2557. My name is KayLa Cortes and I am a volunteer with RESULTS, an organization committed to ending poverty.

In the 1920's Frederick Banting first synthesized insulin and later sold the patent to a university for one dollar. It was never intended to be used by pharmaceutical companies to collect massive profits off of a population whose lives depend on it. A study by the Health Care Cost Institute showed the price has doubled since 2012. In 2012 the average cost per year per patient was \$2864 and rose to \$5705 in 2016. At the same time it is estimated that it costs between two and four dollars to manufacture a vial of human insulin and between three and seven dollars for a vial of analog insulin.

Without insulin, a diabetic could suffer kidney failure, blindness, and even death. 11.6% of Kansans are diabetic, which is higher than the national average. Insulin is not something that many diabetics can afford to live without, but one in four will underuse their required dosages in order to cut costs.

Similar legislation has passed with bipartisan support in Colorado and Illinois. There are also similar measures introduced in Virginia and Tennessee. I urge you to join these states by passing HB 2557 out of committee to save Kansans' lives and to ease the burden of the costs for these necessary medications.