

September 1, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing physicians and other health care providers who work to treat people with diabetes, we urge you to act now and pass legislation to make insulin more affordable for those who rely on it. Congress must act to address this ongoing crisis which has gotten worse as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We ask that any legislation crafted through the budget reconciliation process include provisions to make insulin and other costly prescription drugs more affordable for those Americans whose health depends on them.

As you may know, insulin is a lifesaving drug for millions of people living with diabetes. For all people living with type 1 diabetes, insulin is the only option and must be taken for life. Over 7 million people in the United States use insulin to control their blood sugar and avoid life-changing complications such as dialysis, heart disease and amputation. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of insulin. Despite this milestone this life-saving medication remains unaffordable for many who rely on it. In the past 15 years, the price of insulin has nearly tripled making it difficult for people with diabetes to manage their care. In recent years, there has been widespread acknowledgement that access to affordable insulin is a serious problem. However, despite this acknowledgement the cost the insulin continues to be high and Americans living with diabetes continue to suffer. We continue to hear stories of patients forgoing or rationing their prescribed insulin because of cost. Unfortunately, this has resulted in serious health effects with higher costs and, in some cases, death. Further, the House Energy & Commerce Committee recently acknowledged that insulin prices continue to be unacceptably high despite their work to learn more about why prices have skyrocketed over the past 15 years.<sup>1</sup>

We commend the work that the Energy & Commerce Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and other committees have done to shed light on this issue. Now we ask that you act immediately to address this ongoing problem. We call on Congress to pass legislation to make insulin affordable as soon as possible. This legislation must address the drivers of rising insulin prices and implement solutions that will lower the out-of-pocket costs for patients. Included with this letter is a copy of the Endocrine Society's [position statement](#) on insulin access and affordability, which includes recommendations for lower the price of insulin and out-of-pocket costs for people living with diabetes. We also want to share a [recent article](#) published in

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<sup>1</sup> E&C Leaders follow up with pharmaceutical manufacturers on the high cost of insulin. House Energy & Commerce Committee. August 19, 2021. Retrieved from: <https://energycommerce.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/ec-leaders-follow-up-with-pharmaceutical-manufacturers-on-the-high-cost-of>

Reuters which highlights stories of people living with diabetes who have struggled to afford insulin and the heightened challenges many have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Our organizations will follow up with you given the urgency of this issue. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Rob Goldsmith, Director, Advocacy and Policy at the Endocrine Society at [rgoldsmith@endocrine.org](mailto:rgoldsmith@endocrine.org) who can assist you or direct you to the other organizations.

Sincerely,

American Association of Clinical Endocrinology  
American College of Physicians  
Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists  
Endocrine Society