

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.170

Senator VanderWall offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the Governor of Michigan, the Michigan
2 Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of
3 Insurance and Financial Services, the Department of Licensing and
4 Regulatory Affairs, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation,
5 and other executive departments to take action to make insulin more
6 accessible and affordable.

7 Whereas, Diabetes affects nearly 37.3 million people in the
8 United States, and, as of 2020, an estimated 12.3 percent of
9 Michigan residents - over one million people - reported being
10 diagnosed with diabetes. People who live with diabetes are subject
11 to increased medical costs, negative health risks such as shortened
12 lifespans, and a host of other consequences. The Centers for
13 Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 5 to 10 percent of

1 people with diabetes have type 1 diabetes, which requires daily
2 insulin to survive; and

3 Whereas, The provision of insulin is crucial for the 5 to 10
4 percent of people with type 1 diabetes, and people with type 2
5 diabetes may also rely on insulin to manage their condition. Many
6 cannot afford the rapidly increasing costs of insulin, causing them
7 to skip or ration their medication, which leads to further health
8 consequences. Michigan citizens are often forced to choose between
9 medication and other costs; and

10 Whereas, Diabetes is an expensive condition, and the high and
11 increasing cost of insulin is putting financial, emotional, and
12 physical stress on many Michigan residents. In 2018, the average
13 price of a single vial of insulin was \$98.70, which results in
14 costs of up to \$300 per month for those who need just two or three
15 vials. For those who need more than three vials or take multiple
16 forms of insulin, that monthly cost can easily double. Also,
17 injectable devices with mixed insulin can cost upwards of \$700 for
18 just five pens. The creation of generic and biosimilar insulin has
19 helped reduce the price, but some are not able to use these options
20 and must still use traditional, more expensive insulin. From 2014
21 to 2019, the average retail price for insulin increased by a
22 drastic 54 percent. The COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in many
23 losing their jobs, only exacerbated the financial burden of living
24 with diabetes; and

25 Whereas, If we do not address the rising costs of insulin, we
26 put vulnerable Michiganders at risk and endanger their long term
27 health by increasing the possibilities of complications stemming
28 from diabetes, as well as increase costs to the health care system.
29 As leaders of Michigan, we must aggressively initiate action to

1 make insulin more accessible and affordable for all who need it;
2 and

3 Whereas, All insulin users, including those with both public
4 or private insurance plans, deserve affordable and accessible life-
5 saving drugs. To provide that access, the State of Michigan should
6 launch further investigation and review of how we can use public
7 and private partnerships to acquire insulin in bulk at lower prices
8 or produce insulin. This investigation should include the
9 development of a strategic plan on how the State can manufacture
10 and distribute insulin; now, therefore, be it

11 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the Governor of Michigan,
12 the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the
13 Department of Insurance and Financial Services, the Department of
14 Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, the Michigan Economic Development
15 Corporation, and other executive departments to take action to make
16 insulin more accessible and affordable; and be it further

17 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
18 Governor of Michigan, the Director of the Michigan Department of
19 Health and Human Services, the Director of the Michigan Department
20 of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, the Director of the Michigan
21 Department of Insurance and Financial Services, and the Chief
22 Executive and Economic Competitiveness Officer of the Michigan
23 Economic Development Corporation.