

PATIENTS FOR AFFORDABLE DRUGS NOW™

July 21, 2026

Dear Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, and Members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee.

Patients For Affordable Drugs Now (P4ADNow) commends the Committee for including [S.4189, the Improving Needed Safeguards for Users of Lifesaving Insulin Now \(INSULIN\) Act](#), in the markup scheduled for July 22. The INSULIN Act would help ensure patients have access to affordable insulin while addressing anticompetitive practices that keep lower-cost medicines off the market. **We urge you to vote in favor of this important legislation.**

American patients pay artificially high prices for their prescription drugs because pharmaceutical companies systematically extend monopoly protections beyond the period Congress intended, delaying competition and keeping prices high long after they have recouped their investments in research and development. Insulin has become one of the clearest examples of this broken system, and too many patients are forced to ration a medication they need to survive.

P4ADNow is the only national patient advocacy organization focused exclusively on policies to lower prescription drug prices. We are independent, bipartisan, and do not accept funding from organizations that profit from the development or distribution of prescription drugs—distinguishing us from most patient advocacy groups.

Since our founding nearly 10 years ago, we have collected more than 40,000 stories from patients in every state and congressional district struggling to afford their prescription drugs. We have also built a community of more than 750,000 patients and allies advocating for lower drug prices. Many members of our community live with chronic, life-threatening, or rare conditions, but regardless of income, race, or ZIP code, they share a common experience: prescription drugs are unaffordable. We regularly hear from patients who must choose between paying for their medications and paying for other necessities, like food or housing. Their stories reflect a broader reality, as one in three Americans cannot afford their prescription drugs.¹

The INSULIN Act would cap out-of-pocket insulin costs at \$35 per month for patients with private insurance, including employer-sponsored plans. Current law limits Medicare beneficiaries' monthly out-of-pocket insulin costs to \$35 a month, providing meaningful financial relief for patients,² while improving medication adherence.³ According to a recent poll released by the American Diabetes Association, more than 70 percent of patients reported paying more than \$35 per month, and nearly 40 percent pay \$150 or more per month.⁴ With more than 30 percent of people who take insulin relying on private insurance, extending meaningful cost

¹(2023, March 10) *More than one-third of Americans haven't filled a prescription due to cost: survey*. The Hill. <https://thehill.com/changing-america/respect/poverty/3893811-more-than-one-third-of-americans-havent-filled-a-prescription-due-to-costsurvey/>

²(2026, March 19). Fang M, Dun C, Wang D, et al. *Trends in Insulin Out-of-Pocket Costs Among US Medicare Beneficiaries*. JAMA. 2026;335(15):1357–1359. doi:10.1001/jama.2026.2341

³(2026, June 8) Oueini, R. et al. *Changes in Persistence to Basal Insulin Following the Medicare Out-of-Pocket Cost Cap*. American Journal of Managed Care. Vol. 32, Issue 6, pp. e212-e216.

<https://www.ajmc.com/view/changes-in-persistence-to-basal-insulin-following-the-medicare-out-of-pocket-cost-cap>

⁴(2026, June 23) New Survey: Nearly 40 Percent of Insulin Users Polled Pay More Than \$150 Per Month. American Diabetes Association. <https://diabetes.org/newsroom/press-releases/new-survey-nearly-40-percent-insulin-users-polled-pay-more-150-month>

protections to the commercial market would ensure more patients can access this life-sustaining medication without being forced to make impossible choices.⁵

The INSULIN Act would also help address another tactic pharmaceutical companies use to delay lower-cost competition. The bill would give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) greater authority to reject sham “citizen petitions” that serve no purpose other than delaying lower-cost generic and biosimilar alternatives. Earlier competition means lower prices for patients. A single generic competitor can reduce a drug’s price by more than 30 percent, while six generic competitors can reduce prices by as much as 95 percent.⁶

We urge you to support S.4189 during the Senate HELP Committee markup on July 22nd. American patients are counting on you.

Sincerely,



Merith Basey
Chief Executive Officer
Patients For Affordable Drugs NOW

⁵(2022, July 5), Bakkila, B., Basu, S., and Lipska, K. *Catastrophic Spending On Insulin In The United States, 2017–18*. Health Affairs. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2021.01788>

⁶(2019, December) *Generic Competition and Drug Prices: New Evidence Linking Greater Generic Competition and Lower Generic Drug Prices*, U.S. Food and Drug Administration. <https://www.fda.gov/media/133509/download>