

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 13, 2023

Kim Keck, CEO  
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association  
225 North Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Ms. Keck:

As a follow up to my July 25, 2022 letter, I write to implore you to reduce or eliminate the out-of-pocket costs of insulin for your beneficiaries, as soon as possible.

Last year, I introduced legislation to cap the cost of insulin for seniors and people on private insurance at \$35 a month. Since then, bipartisan momentum has grown from Congress to the White House to make insulin affordable for everyone who needs it. While Congress passed part of my legislation to cap insulin costs for seniors, there are still too many Americans who cannot afford their insulin. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 21 million people with diabetes are under the age of 65.<sup>1</sup> And in 2022, a study from *Annals of Internal Medicine* found that 1.3 million Americans with diabetes rationed their insulin that year.<sup>2</sup> At this year's State of the Union, I brought an Atlanta resident, Lacy McGee, as my guest. Lacy spent years rationing insulin, using expired insulin, or buying black market insulin. It is unacceptable that Lacy's story is not unusual, millions of Americans have put their health and their life at risk because they could not afford their insulin.

Since I first introduced the *Affordable Insulin Now Act*, several companies, including your competitors, have taken steps independent of Congress to limit the cost of insulin. Most recently, Eli Lilly announced that their insulin products will be capped at \$35 per month for people on private insurance, a nod to my insulin cost-cap legislation.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, on July 15, 2022, UnitedHealthcare announced its plan to eliminate out-of-pocket costs of insulin for its beneficiaries.<sup>4</sup>

I am glad that many companies have taken steps to voluntarily lower insulin costs for families. I believe Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and its health plans can afford to take this life-saving step as well. In the meantime, I will continue working with my colleagues in Congress to lower drug costs for everyone and forge bipartisan legislative solutions to the affordable drug crisis because Americans cannot afford to wait. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Raphael Warnock  
U.S. Senator

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics-report/diagnosed-undiagnosed-diabetes.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/17/health/insulin-rationing-diabetes-study/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://investor.lilly.com/news-releases/news-release-details/lilly-cuts-insulin-prices-70-and-caps-patient-insulin-out-pocket>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unitedhealthgroup.com/newsroom/2022/2022-07-15-uhg-eliminate-out-of-pocket-costs.html>