

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 13, 2023

Douglas J. Langa
President
Novo Nordisk USA
800 Scudders Mill Road
Plainsboro, NJ 08536

Dear Mr. Langa,

I write on behalf of the over one million diabetic Georgians to implore you to cap the out-of-pocket costs of Novo Nordisk-manufactured insulin at \$35 per month or less for both uninsured and privately-insured Americans.

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 65.¹ And in 2022, a study from Annals of Internal Medicine found that 1.3 million Americans with diabetes rationed their insulin that year.² 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.

As you know, 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.³ Additionally, in June 2022, Sanofi announced that uninsured patients will pay no more than \$35 per month for their life-saving medicine.⁴ I appreciate the steps Novo Nordisk has taken in the last several years to make your insulin more affordable. For example, in 2020, your company started the My\$99Insulin program, capping monthly costs at \$99.⁵ I also understand that you have entered a partnership with Walmart to offer highly discounted insulin to diabetics. The health care system has made great strides since these initiatives, and given the growing sentiment among lawmakers, health care professionals, and diabetics alike, I hope you will also choose to cap the cost of your insulin products for all users, including those with private insurance.

I am glad that many companies have taken steps to voluntarily lower insulin costs for families. I believe Novo Nordisk 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

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

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

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

⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/sanofi-caps-out-of-pocket-insulin-cost-35-uninsured-us-patients-2022-06-29>

⁵ <https://www.novocare.com/content/novocare/en/insulin/my99insulin.html>