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**Affordable Insulin Now Act of 2023**

Over 8.4 million American rely on insulin to live.[[1]](#footnote-2) In the United States, insulin costs 10 times as much as anywhere else in the world, which explains why one in four Americans have reported rationing their insulin.[[2]](#footnote-3) Costs to treat diabetes have continued to rise for many Georgians and Americans: insulin prices nearly doubled from 2012 to 2016, with the average price for a 40-day supply of insulin increasing from $344 to $666 during that span.[[3]](#footnote-4)

**Affordable Insulin Now Act of 2023:**

Under the bipartisan *Affordable Insulin Now Act of 2023*, introduced by U.S. Senators Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-GA) and John Kennedy (R-LA), private group or individual plans would be required to cover one of each insulin dosage form (i.e. vial, pen) and insulin type (i.e. rapid-acting, short-acting, intermediate-acting, and long-acting) for no more than $35 per month. Additionally, the legislation would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a program where qualifying entities can be reimbursed above the cost of $35 for providing a monthly insulin dosage to uninsured individuals. Qualifying entities include health care providers or pharmacies that agree to charge no more than $35 per month out-of-pocket for insulin for an uninsured individual. This bill will be fully paid for by an offset to be determined.

**Highlights of Senator Warnock’s Insulin Leadership:**

* In February 2022, Senator Warnock, a long-time champion for affordable, quality health care, [introduced](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/video-senator-reverend-warnock-introduces-new-bill-to-cap-costs-of-insulin-in-georgia-nationwide/__;!!JZyed81S!hKubV0LAjROzbd_BkX6JB16mgD9xAwtptrbsI78iulSGzK7WTpZ97FdhqlST9atgfCmhdHTdJmWPcCqpg1uj0K-Y3r7lFeKOGQ$)the *Affordable Insulin Now Act*, which would cap the out-of-pocket cost of insulin at $35 for insulin users on private insurance and Medicare plans.

* Senator Warnock successfully built critical support for the legislation, including [garnering](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/3700/cosponsors?q=*7B*22search*22*3A*5B*22*5C*22Affordable*Insulin*Now*Act*5C*22*22*2C*22*5C*22Affordable*22*2C*22Insulin*22*2C*22Now*22*2C*22Act*5C*22*22*5D*7D&r=2&s=1__;JSUlJSUlJSUrKyslJSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJSU!!JZyed81S!hKubV0LAjROzbd_BkX6JB16mgD9xAwtptrbsI78iulSGzK7WTpZ97FdhqlST9atgfCmhdHTdJmWPcCqpg1uj0K-Y3r5czvTYLg$)co-sponsorships from a majority of Senate Democrats as well as [securing](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/66880-2/__;!!JZyed81S!hKubV0LAjROzbd_BkX6JB16mgD9xAwtptrbsI78iulSGzK7WTpZ97FdhqlST9atgfCmhdHTdJmWPcCqpg1uj0K-Y3r5_XDfY_Q$)the bill’s bipartisan passage through the House of Representatives. Additionally, the Senator [secured](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/icymi-american-diabetes-association-endorses-senator-reverend-warnocks-legislation-to-cap-out-of-pocket-costs-for-insulin/__;!!JZyed81S!hKubV0LAjROzbd_BkX6JB16mgD9xAwtptrbsI78iulSGzK7WTpZ97FdhqlST9atgfCmhdHTdJmWPcCqpg1uj0K-Y3r5uZM-E7w$)major endorsements for his legislation from important health care and diabetes advocacy organizations, including the American Diabetes Association.

* Senator Warnock was able to successfully [secure](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/passed-senator-reverend-warnocks-proposals-to-limit-seniors-drug-costs-and-cap-insulin-costs-both-passed-by-senate-in-sweeping-legislation-to-reduce-deficit-lower-health-care-costs/__;!!JZyed81S!hKubV0LAjROzbd_BkX6JB16mgD9xAwtptrbsI78iulSGzK7WTpZ97FdhqlST9atgfCmhdHTdJmWPcCqpg1uj0K-Y3r6UxGpm_g$)a provision of his legislation—a $35 out-of-pocket cost cap for Medicare recipients—in the *Inflation Reduction Act*, which was [signed into law](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/passed-senator-reverend-warnocks-proposals-to-limit-seniors-drug-costs-and-cap-insulin-costs-both-passed-by-senate-in-sweeping-legislation-to-reduce-deficit-lower-health-care-costs/__;!!JZyed81S!hKubV0LAjROzbd_BkX6JB16mgD9xAwtptrbsI78iulSGzK7WTpZ97FdhqlST9atgfCmhdHTdJmWPcCqpg1uj0K-Y3r6UxGpm_g$) in August 2022.

* Additionally, thanks to Senator Warnock’s efforts to bring national attention to this issue, in July 2022 major insurance company UnitedHealthcare [announced](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/breaking-motivated-by-senator-reverend-warnocks-affordable-insulin-now-act-major-u-s-insurer-unitedhealthcare-announces-they-will-eliminate-out-of-pocket-costs-for-insulin/__;!!JZyed81S!hKubV0LAjROzbd_BkX6JB16mgD9xAwtptrbsI78iulSGzK7WTpZ97FdhqlST9atgfCmhdHTdJmWPcCqpg1uj0K-Y3r5lFlIExQ$) it would eliminate out-of-pocket costs on insulin for its insured patients, and in June 2022 insulin drug manufacturer Sanofi [announced](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/breaking-in-a-significant-sign-of-momentum-for-senator-reverend-warnocks-35-insulin-cap-bill-insulin-maker-sanofi-caps-insulin-at-35-for-uninsuredpatients/__;!!JZyed81S!hKubV0LAjROzbd_BkX6JB16mgD9xAwtptrbsI78iulSGzK7WTpZ97FdhqlST9atgfCmhdHTdJmWPcCqpg1uj0K-Y3r5RV9QU1g$) it was capping the cost of insulin at $35 a month for all uninsured U.S. patients.

* As part of his continued effort to bring moral urgency to this issue, at this year’s State of the Union address, Senator Reverend Warnock was [joined](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/icymi-senator-reverend-warnock-brings-out-of-pocket-insulin-costs-to-the-front-burner-with-state-of-the-union-guest/__;!!JZyed81S!hKubV0LAjROzbd_BkX6JB16mgD9xAwtptrbsI78iulSGzK7WTpZ97FdhqlST9atgfCmhdHTdJmWPcCqpg1uj0K-Y3r4xUNtq_w$) by Atlanta resident and insulin user Lacy Mason (McGee). Lacy could not afford her insulin while in graduate school, often resorting to extreme measures to buy insulin.

* In mid-March, Senator Reverend Warnock launched a new effort [urging](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/senator-reverend-warnock-pressures-manufactures-insurers-to-lower-insulin-costs-to-35-a-month-or-less/)insulin manufacturers Novo Nordisk, Sanofi, as well as insurers to cap the out-of-pocket cost of insulin at $35 a month. As a result, both Novo Nordisk and Sanofi have capped the price of cost of their insulin products.

**Timeline of Senator Warnock’s Insulin Leadership**

**February 17, 2022** Senator Warnock [introduces](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/video-senator-reverend-warnock-introduces-new-bill-to-cap-costs-of-insulin-in-georgia-nationwide/) the *Affordable Insulin Now Act* to cap out-of-pocket insulin costs for Medicare recipients and people on private insurance at $35 a month.

**Feburary 23, 2022** Senator Warnock [secures](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/icymi-american-diabetes-association-endorses-senator-reverend-warnocks-legislation-to-cap-out-of-pocket-costs-for-insulin/) the American Diabetes Assocation’s endorsement for his legislation.

**March 28, 2022** Senator Warnock [calls](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/senator-reverend-warnock-urges-house-of-representatives-to-immediately-pass-35-insulin-cap-calls-on-senate-to-follow-suit/) on House of Representatives to pass the *Affordable Insulin Now Act*

**April 1 2022** At Senator Warnock’s [urging](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/66880-2/), the House passes the *Affordable Insulin Now Act*

**April 11, 2022** Senator Warnock [secures](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/senator-reverend-warnock-statement-on-inclusion-of-his-35-per-month-costs-cap-provision-in-shaheen-collins-insulin-proposal/) his $35 cost cap legislation in the Shaheen-Collins insulin proporal

**May 6, 2022** Senator Warnock [pens](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/in-new-op-ed-senator-reverend-warnock-makes-it-plain-affordable-insulin-cant-wait/) an op-ed in the Atlanta Journal Constitution outling the importance of passing his *Affordable Insulin Now Act* in order to lower costs of insulin for Georgians

**June 6, 2022** Senator Warnock [pushes](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/senator-reverend-warnock-pushes-senate-leadership-to-bring-insulin-legislation-to-the-senate-floor-asap/) Senate leadership to bring his insulin legislation to the floor ASAP

**July 1, 2022** In a nod to Senator Warnock’s $35 cost cap legisaltion, insulin manufacturer Sanofi [caps](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/breaking-in-a-significant-sign-of-momentum-for-senator-reverend-warnocks-35-insulin-cap-bill-insulin-maker-sanofi-caps-insulin-at-35-for-uninsuredpatients/) insulin cost at $35 for unisured insulin users.

**July 15, 2022** Following Senator Warnock’s efforts, UnitedHealthcare [announces](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/breaking-motivated-by-senator-reverend-warnocks-affordable-insulin-now-act-major-u-s-insurer-unitedhealthcare-announces-they-will-eliminate-out-of-pocket-costs-for-insulin/) they will eliminate out-of-pocket insulin costs for its insured patients

**July 25, 2022** Senator Warnock [challenges](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/senator-reverend-warnock-challenges-nations-major-insurers-to-reduce-or-eliminate-out-of-pocket-insulin-costs/) major insurers to reduce or eliminate out-of-pocket insulin costs.

**July 29, 2022** Senator Warnock [secures](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/senator-reverend-warnock-statement-on-path-forward-on-insulin-legislation/) inclusion of his $35 cost cap legislation in the Infation Reduction Act.

**August 7, 2022** The Senate [passes](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/passed-senator-reverend-warnocks-proposals-to-limit-seniors-drug-costs-and-cap-insulin-costs-both-passed-by-senate-in-sweeping-legislation-to-reduce-deficit-lower-health-care-costs/) the Inflation Reduction Act, including Senator Warnock’s $35 insulin cost cap for Medicare recipients.

**January 1, 2023** Thanks to Senator Warnock’s months of leadership, the $35 insulin cost cap for insulin recipients [takes](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/this-measure-will-save-lives-senator-reverend-warnock-celebrates-his-35-medicare-insulin-cost-cap-taking-effect-lowering-insulin-costs-for-over-50000-georgians/) effect.

**February 8, 2023** Senator Warnock [brings](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/we-can-do-better-than-this-atlanta-insulin-user-joins-senator-reverend-warnock-at-state-of-the-union-address-to-highlight-moral-urgency-of-lowering-insulin-costs-as-president-biden/) Atlanta insulin-user Lacy McGee as his State of the Union guest.

**March 1, 2023** In a nod to Senator Warnock’s efforts, insulin manufacturer Eli Lilly [announces](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/in-a-nod-to-senator-reverend-warnocks-nationally-recognized-efforts-to-cap-insulin-at-35-a-month-insulin-manufacturer-eli-lilly-announces-35-a-month-cap/) $35 cost cap.

**March 13, 2023** Senator Warnock [pressures](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/in-a-nod-to-senator-reverend-warnocks-nationally-recognized-efforts-to-cap-insulin-at-35-a-month-insulin-manufacturer-eli-lilly-announces-35-a-month-cap/) manufacterers, insurers to lower insulin costs to $35 a month or less.

**March 14, 2023** Following Senator Warnock’s calls, insulin manufacturer Novo Nordisk [slashes](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/senator-reverend-warnocks-statement-on-novo-nordisks-insulin-price-cut-announcement/) insulin prices.

**March 16, 2023** Heeding Senator Warnock, insulin manufacturer Sanofi [caps](https://www.warnock.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/heeding-senator-reverend-warnocks-call-insulin-manufacturer-sanofi-caps-insulin-costs-at-35-a-month/) insulin costs at $35 a month for privately-insured insulin users.

**March 23, 2022** Senator Warnock joins Senator Kennedy to introduce bipartisan legisaltion to cap insulin at $35 for privately-insured and uninsured insulin users.

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*Updated 03.22.23*

1. https://diabetes.org/newsroom/press-releases/2022/american-diabetes-association-announces-support-for-insulin-act-at-senate-press-conference [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. https://diabetes.org/newsroom/press-releases/2022/american-diabetes-association-announces-support-for-insulin-act-at-senate-press-conference [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. https://healthcostinstitute.org/diabetes-and-insulin/price-of-insulin-prescription-doubled-between-2012-and-2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)