



Connected **for Life**

**Senate Bill 155
Senate Bill 156
Proponent Testimony**

Gary Dougherty
Director, State Government Affairs
American Diabetes Association®
House Health Policy Committee
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Chair Kahle and Members of the House Health Policy Committee:

My name is Gary Dougherty and I am the Director of State Government Affairs for the American Diabetes Association® (ADA). Unfortunately, I am unable to join you this morning; therefore, I am submitting this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 155 and Senate Bill 156.

Over the New Year's holiday in 2014, Kevin Houdeshell, a neighboring Ohioan with diabetes, ran out of insulin and was unable to reach his physician to get a new prescription. He began to ration the last of his insulin until he could see his doctor after the holiday. However, due to a lack of sufficient insulin, he went into diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) and died.

In 2016, legislation which has become known as Kevin's Law was enacted in Ohio and became a model for several other states that have enacted similar legislation. SB 155, Michigan's version of Kevin's Law, permits a pharmacist, under certain conditions, to dispense a 30-day emergency supply of insulin without a current, valid prescription.

Before dispensing the insulin, a pharmacist must confirm the patient previously had a prescription for insulin filled at the pharmacy, has no refills available, and, in the pharmacist's judgement, is in urgent need of the life-sustaining drug. The bill allows up to three emergency supplies of insulin within a calendar year, except that they cannot be dispensed consecutively.

Whereas Kevin's Law has been a lifesaving option for many in other states, some people have not taken advantage of it because the emergency supply of insulin dispensed by the pharmacist is not covered by insurance.

SB 156 is an appropriate complement as it improves upon Kevin's Law by ensuring coverage for the emergency supplies of insulin authorized by SB 155.

Insulin access is a high priority for the ADA and Senate Bills 155 and 156 will help achieve that goal.

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On behalf of the more than 3.8 million Michiganders with or at risk for diabetes, the ADA urges your support for Senate Bills 155 and 156 which will help individuals who no longer have refills left on their insulin prescription, have run out of insulin, and are not able to reach their doctors to call in a refill.

Thank you very much for your attention. If you have any questions, please direct them to me at gdougherty@diabetes.org and I will do my best to answer them for you.

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