

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 22, 2017

Ms. Marilyn Tavenner  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
America's Health Insurance Plans  
601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Ms. Tavenner,


We write to invite America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) to meet with us for a discussion about insulin prices and policy options that will help provide relief for patients and their families. As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, we are gravely concerned about the rising costs of insulin, which have made this lifesaving medication unaffordable for people with diabetes. The time is long overdue for engaging in a constructive dialogue about how to address this vexing problem and the burden it imposes on millions of Americans.

Both the underlying cost of insulin and the direct cost burden on patients with diabetes have risen in recent years. Average insulin prices have nearly tripled between 2002 and 2013. Many patients are also becoming more exposed to high prices due to high deductibles, coinsurance, and various formulary exclusions. This growing, direct cost burden negatively impacts millions of people in the United States. Unfortunately, this is not a theoretical concern. We have heard personal stories from people across the diabetes community who struggle to purchase insulin due to prohibitive costs. Insulin is a life-sustaining drug for which there is no substitute. For those who need it, not taking insulin can lead to poor health outcomes, complications, and even death. However, people skip doses, fail to pay rent or buy groceries, and even resort to an insulin "black market" in order to afford their insulin. No one should be forced to make these incredibly difficult choices.

We are committed to examining the causes of high prices and developing policy solutions to make insulin more affordable for all Americans who need it. However, we also appreciate the complexity of the issue and understand that many factors are driving the ongoing rise in prices. In order to provide meaningful relief for patients and families, Congress must do more due diligence to get to the bottom of this. That means arming ourselves with the facts and information we need to develop effective solutions. Because health plans provide insulin coverage to millions of individuals with diabetes, AHIP and its members have crucial insight and information that can assist us in this effort.

We respectfully request that you arrange a meeting with us by July 28, 2017 to discuss how to reverse this negative trend. Please do not hesitate to contact Drew Wayne in Rep. Reed's office ([drew.wayne@mail.house.gov](mailto:drew.wayne@mail.house.gov) or 202-225-3161) or Polly Webster in Rep. DeGette's office ([polly.webster@mail.house.gov](mailto:polly.webster@mail.house.gov) or 202-225-4431) with any questions.

Sincerely,



---

TOM REED  
Member of Congress



---

DIANA DEGETTE  
Member of Congress