

The Connecticut General Assembly



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State Rep. Turco Supports Insulin Legislation

HARTFORD — Thursday morning, **State Representative Gary Turco** (D – Newington) joined **State Senator Matt Lesser** (D – Middletown), Senate Chair of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee, **State Representative Sean Scanlon** (D – Guilford), House Chair of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee, **Senate President Pro Tempore Martin M. Looney** (D – New Haven), **Senate Republican Leader Len Fasano** (R – North Haven), **State Senator Kevin Kelly** (R – Stratford), advocates and other lawmakers to announce a new bill proposal to cap insulin costs and authorize access to emergency insulin without a prescription.

“I am grateful for **Sen. Lesser's** outstanding leadership to expand access to insulin. No one should have to choose between affording life’s necessities and life-saving medication, like insulin. I was proud to stand with a bipartisan coalition including the Insurance and Real Estate Committee Co-Chairs **Rep. Scanlon** and **Sen. Lesser** to announce this bill that will restrict the price on insulin and insulin supplies,” said **Rep. Turco**, who serves on the Insurance & Real Estate Committee. “A bottle of insulin costs on average \$5 to make, but the out-of-pocket expense for some customers is astronomical. We cannot allow this practice to continue.”

According to an analysis conducted by the American Diabetes Association on insulin affordability, insulin prices nearly [tripled](#) from 2002 to 2013. The Health Care Cost Institute [found consumer spending on insulin doubled from 2012 to 2016](#), largely due to price increases for insulin. Today, a vial of insulin can cost between \$350 to \$400.

During the press conference, **Rep. Scanlon** and **Sen. Lesser** stated the following provisions are included in the proposal, which would implement the toughest cap on insulin in the country to help patients with diabetes:

- Capping insulin costs including all insulin and diabetes supplies at \$100 per month
- Allowing patients to get insulin filled by a pharmacist without a prescription up to three times a year
- Using unused prescriptions to fund a new program created by the Department of Social Services to help low-income type 1 diabetics access insulin.

Diabetes is the seventh-leading cause of death in the state and affects 11.4 percent of Connecticut residents. Approximately 36.5 percent of Connecticut residents have prediabetes. However, estimates could be higher as some individuals may be undiagnosed.

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