

THE INSULIN FOR ALL ACT



Insulin for All Act of 2023

Senator Bernie Sanders & Representative Cori Bush

Background: Insulin is not a new drug. It was discovered 100 years ago by Canadian scientists who sold the patent rights of insulin for just \$1 because they wanted to save lives, not make pharmaceutical executives extremely wealthy. “Insulin does not belong to me,” famously said one of the scientists. “It belongs to the world.”

And yet, as a result of unacceptable corporate greed, the price of insulin has gone up by over 1,000 percent since 1996 causing 1.3 million people with diabetes to ration insulin while the three major insulin manufacturers made \$21 [billion dollars in profits](#) last year.

More than [37 million people](#) in the United States have diabetes and more than 7 million people use insulin. People with diabetes face nearly [\\$17,000 per year](#) in medical expenses, more than half of which is directly attributable to their diabetes. Diabetes can cause blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, stroke, and other severe health consequences. Health care for people with diabetes accounts for [one in four](#) health care dollars in the United States.

Insulin prices are outrageous. Sanofi’s Lantus costs \$292 per vial. Novo Nordisk’s Novolog is listed at \$289. Eli Lilly’s Lyumjev can be purchased for \$275.

There is no reason why Americans should pay the highest prices in the world for insulin—in some cases, [ten times as much](#) as people in other countries. Researchers estimate that a vial of insulin costs just [\\$8 to manufacture](#).

What the Bill Would Do: This legislation would cap the list price of insulin. It would prohibit pharmaceutical manufacturers from charging more than \$20 per vial (i.e., 1000 units of insulin).

Why the Bill is Needed: Although Eli Lilly recently announced price cuts for one insulin named Humalog, the company will not reduce the price of other insulin products. Novo Nordisk and Sanofi, the other major insulin manufacturers, have not made any commitment to lower their prices at all.

When Eli Lilly first launched Humalog in 1996, it set the price [close to \\$20](#).

Restoring a \$20 price for all insulins would help everyone who uses insulin, including the uninsured, who are the most vulnerable to rationing. One study found that nearly [30% of people](#) without insurance ration insulin.

This bill would save countless lives, and help ensure insulin is not a luxury but a human right.

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Senate Cosponsors: Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Senator Ed Markey (D-MA)

House Cosponsors: Rep. Yvette Clarke (NY), Sylvia Garcia (TX-29), Rashida Tlaib (MI-12), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Jamaal Bowman (NY-16), Al Green (TX-09), Pramila Jayapal (WA-07), Ayanna Pressley (MA-07), Jesús ‘Chuy’ García (IL-04), Ro Khanna (CA-17)

There are 71 organizations who endorsed the bill: ACA Consumer Advocacy, AF3IRM, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, American Federation of Teachers, American Medical Student Association, Arizona Educators United, Arkansas #insulin4all, Association of Flight Attendants-CWAZ Medicare for All Coalition, Bayard Rustin Liberation Initiative, Beta Cell Action, California #insulin4all, Campaign for America's Future, Care in Action, Center for Medicare Advocacy, Center for Popular Democracy, Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, CommonDefense.us, Community Catalyst, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces, Doctors for America, Dominican Sisters, Grand Rapids, Dominican Sisters of Houston, Dominican Sisters (M SJ), Families United for Affordable Insulin, Franciscan Peace Center (Clinton, IA), Gen-Z for Change, Health Care Awareness Month, Health Care Voices, Health Care Voices, Healthcare NOW, Idaho #insulin4all, Indivisible, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, Just Care USA, Kentucky #insulin4all, Medical Mission Sisters, Michigan #insulin4all, MoveOn, Mutual Aid Diabetes, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, National Domestic Workers Alliance, National Educators United, National Health Care for the Homeless Council, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, New York #insulin4all, Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment, Ohio #insulin4all, Oklahoma #insulin4all, Our Revolution, People's Action, Progressive Democrats of America, Oregon Chapter, Public Citizen, Rights & Democracy, Sanford Springvale Democratic City Committee, Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investments, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Albany Province, Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, MA, Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, Social Security Works, Sunrise Movement, T1International, Tacoma Dominican, Tennessee #insulin4all, Tennessee Health Care Campaign, Inc, The Diabetes Link, The Insulin Initiative, U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, United Mine Workers of America, Universities Allied for Essential Medicines, Utah #insulin4all, West Virginia #insulin4all