

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 145

BY SENATOR BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Insurance to research statistics and the ten year history of insurer's coverage of diabetes-related medication.

WHEREAS, according to the American Diabetes Association, over twelve percent or over five hundred thousand citizens of our state have been diagnosed with diabetes; and

WHEREAS, the Doctor Patient Rights Project (DPRP) reports that in the last four years, the number of diabetes-related treatments on the formulary exclusion lists of the nation's two largest pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) increased by almost eighty percent and now constitute one-fifth of all formulary exclusions; and

WHEREAS, DPRP found that diabetes-related medications were the most excluded treatment category, and the only category where the PBMs had consistently increased the number of exclusions every year since they both began issuing formulary exclusion lists; and

WHEREAS, children with diabetes will be saddled with a lifetime of exorbitant out-of-pocket costs if insurers continue to exclude diabetes-related medications and supplies from coverage; and

WHEREAS, low-income and minority patients are especially vulnerable to exclusion since they may be more likely than others to respond to formulary exclusions by skipping doses to make the original prescription last longer or by discontinuing treatment altogether, according to DPRP's research.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Insurance to research statistics and the ten-year history of insurer's coverage of diabetes-related medication and to submit a written report of the findings to the Senate Committee on Insurance by January 10, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE