



STATE of RHODE ISLAND
Executive Department
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
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Legislative Impact Statement

To: Representative Donovan, Chairperson
From: Elisabeth Hubbard, Executive Secretary
Re: 25 House 5026

Thursday, March 06, 2025

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Legislation Committee has developed a Legislative Impact Statement on the bill listed below. The Commission would be pleased to present testimony to the committee. Please contact me (462-0110) if testimony is desired or for additional information.

Introduced by Representative Kennedy

Caps amount payable for 30 day supply of equipment/supplies for insulin administration/glucose monitoring at \$25 or equipment designed to last more than 30 days with no deductible commencing January 1, 2026.

Legislation Committee finds this bill Beneficial

Continuous glucose monitoring and insulin delivery devices are advances in medical technology that vastly improve health outcomes and independence for people with diabetes.

Continuous Glucose Monitoring Devices (CGMs) are devices a person with diabetes wears that can monitor their blood sugar in real time. It can also be programmed to sound an alert to the wearer when their blood sugar is above or below a certain level. This is important as hyperglycemia (elevated blood sugar) and hypoglycemia (blood sugar that is too low) are medical emergencies that require intervention. Continuous insulin delivery devices deliver insulin to a person when their blood sugar is too high and maintains a healthy level.

Unfortunately, the cost of these devices can be prohibitive for people. Forbes Magazine cited the cost in October of 2023 as between \$100-300 per month for a GCM device, not including other supplies. <https://www.forbes.com/health/conditions/diabetes/continuous-glucose-monitor-cost/>

The alternative to the devices is using the traditional finger stick and glucose monitor and then treating blood sugar that is too low with glucose or too high with insulin. While this system works, it does not work continuously like the devices. A person with diabetes must interrupt

their day to test and treat. Most people operate on a schedule, so they may be symptomatic in between scheduled testing times. This means high or low blood sugar may be left untreated.

The immediate symptoms of high or low blood sugar can be dangerous- weakness, confusion, nausea, anxiety and even passing out. Treating in real-time prevents this from happening. In addition, long-term high or low blood sugar can lead to circulation issues that can lead to kidney failure, heart disease, and loss of limbs, all serious conditions that would lead to hospitalization.

Being able to use a CGM or insulin delivery device also provides greater freedom to people with diabetes. They do not have to worry about having a medical crisis when they are out of their home at school, in their community, or at work. This affords people with diabetes more opportunities for employment and engaging in their community.

cc: Representative Kennedy

Rico Vota, Governor's Office of Legislative Affairs