



July 12, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of The LIBRE Initiative, a national organization committed to empowering the Hispanic community, we write in opposition to the INSULIN Act – a bill introduced by Senator Shaheen of New Hampshire and Senator Collins of Maine that would cap the price of insulin and establish a permanent infrastructure for harmful price controls on other drugs -- policies that would disproportionately harm the Hispanic community.

While well-intentioned, the proposed INSULIN Act takes a top-down approach that will not actually reduce the cost of life-saving insulin products but would instead shift costs onto individuals who pay insurance premiums and onto taxpayers who subsidize insurance premiums and would inevitably lead to needless shortages and bureaucratic rationing and perhaps even black markets. Tragically, it would also reduce incentives for future pharmaceutical innovation.

This legislation would disproportionately harm the Hispanic community. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), elderly Hispanics are almost twice as likely as non-Hispanic whites to be diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. Younger Hispanic or Latino adults are 50 percent more likely to develop this terrible disease.

This proposal resembles but goes beyond, a bill passed by the House in March (H.R.6833). Both proposals cap patients' out-of-pocket costs for insulin at \$35 a month or 25 percent of the list price. But the INSULIN Act goes beyond that to create what amounts to a template for government price controls on prescription drugs generally. Specifically, the proposal limits the list price of insulin to 2021 net prices for Medicare Part D or equivalent levels. It severely restricts insulin sales agreements and effectively imposes these top-down policies on all health plans, private and public.

For people with diabetes, this is potentially a matter of life and death. Many of us know all too well the danger of price controls, as seen in countries like Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua –to name a few. Indeed, many Hispanics in this country left such places precisely to escape the heavy-handed government approach reflected in this proposal.

The good news is we can reduce the price of prescription drugs, including insulin, without causing harmful shortages and without reducing incentives for life-saving innovation. Congress can and should

promote speedier approvals of generics and biosimilars, including insulin products. It should also prohibit harmful anti-consumer practices in the pharmaceutical sector, such as pay-for-delay agreements, patent evergreening, “brand-name generics,” and the anti-competitive abuse of FDA citizen petitions. When it comes to expanding access to life-saving therapies, competition, not coercion, is the right way to go.

Instead of price controls, let's put patients and taxpayers first. Instead of mandates, let's enact policies that expand choice and competition for all Americans, including Hispanics.

We strongly urge you to oppose the INSULIN Act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Garza", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Daniel Garza  
President and Founder  
The LIBRE Initiative