

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Health Care Reform, Select
For HB 25

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Hearing Date: March 23, 2023 8:00 AM

KayLynn Lyon
Texas Impact
Farmers Branch, TX

I strongly support HB 12.

Laura Owen
Citizen, Librarian
Round Rock, TX

Last year, my government employer changed insurance carriers. My diabetic medicine was no longer covered because there was no generic version. I could not tolerate the versions allowed. My out-of-pocket expense for this life saving prescription was \$800/month. With a coupon, it was \$500. And from Canada, it was \$295. I would buy 1 month and stretch it over 2 months. My blood sugar shot up, my weight went up, and I developed liver issues. My skin and digestion suffered. Injuries took longer than normal to heal. My productivity at work and my quality of life at home suffered.

This fiscal year, I paid out-of-pocket for a better insurance plan, and now my cost for these same prescriptions are \$24/ month. The only reason for the price differences is capitalism. But income brackets should not dictate who lives and who dies. Life saving medicines should be affordable to all. Living in the Greatest State in the Best Nation in the world should provide the basic right to life.

This is not just an ethics question. Healthier citizens become more productive workers. They are not taking disability nor retiring earlier, creating negative economic impact. Instead, they are producers and spenders in our local, State, and national economies. Providing affordable, life saving medicine is crucial to a sound economy. And, it's the right thing for a Texan to do for their neighbors.