



Washington Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care
RE: Support for SB 5326

Jan. 24, 2025

Chair Cleveland and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Northwest Kidney Council, thank you for the opportunity to comment in strong support of SB 5326, which addresses the urgent need for accessible and affordable insulin among Washingtonians, to include those battling kidney disease. Our organization was proud to support this initiative in the 2024 session, and is eager to see it move forward this year.

Our organization partners with patient advocates, health care professionals, care providers and researchers to advance kidney care in both Washington and Oregon. Together we are committed to ensuring that all patients with kidney disease receive high quality care and that treatment is accessible to all.

As a vital component of treatment for many kidney disease patients, affordable access to insulin is essential — and can be a matter of life and death.

For individuals grappling with kidney disease and diabetes, a common comorbidity among this patient population, insulin serves as a lifeline in managing related complications. SB 5326's proposal to grant eligible residents a 30-day emergency supply of insulin annually, with a maximum cost-sharing of \$10, directly addresses the pressing concerns faced by kidney disease patients who rely on insulin for their health and survival.

The consequences of insulin unavailability or unaffordability for kidney disease patients can be dire, leading to complications that exacerbate their disease. By offering an avenue to secure emergency insulin at an affordable cost, SB 5326 directly addresses the financial and physical vulnerabilities faced by this patient population.

I urge the Committee to consider the profound impact SB 5326 will have on kidney disease patients across Washington. This bill represents a compassionate and necessary step toward ensuring the health and survival of a vulnerable population facing significant health challenges.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Brown
Director of Advocacy
nathaniel@nwkidneycouncil.org
971.219.5561