

STACEY ABRAMS

GOVERNOR

Addressing the Skyrocketing Cost of Insulin and Health Care Access for People with Diabetes

THE PROBLEM

Georgians living with diabetes rely on insulin therapies to live, but the cost of insulin is skyrocketing. The average price of insulin in the U.S. has increased by 64% between 2014 and 2019. As a result, medical expenses of those living with diabetes are approximately 2.3 times higher than those who do not have diabetes.¹

IMPACT ON GEORGIANS

More than one million Georgians, or 12.4 percent of the adult population, have been diagnosed with diabetes and approximately 234,000 Georgians have diabetes that is undiagnosed, according to the American Diabetes Association. Diabetes is most prevalent in Southwest Georgia — an area of the state that already struggles due to rural hospital closures, shortage of medical professionals and significant health disparities in comparison to the state as a whole.

WORK BEING DONE

Reverend Raphael Warnock is leading efforts in the U.S. Senate to enact reforms on a federal level to confront rising insulin costs and help Americans living with diabetes. In addition to enactment of his important legislation, Georgians need action at the state level. While the state has less authority on this issue than the federal government, the governor of Georgia must be a state-level partner with leaders like Reverend Warnock to lower costs and save lives. Unfortunately, the current governor has not done his part, failing to use the power of his office to reduce insulin costs.

¹ American Diabetes Association: The Burden of Diabetes in Georgia, October 2021

STACEY'S PLAN

Addressing the skyrocketing cost of insulin and health care access for Georgians living with diabetes is a critical tenet of Stacey's plan to expand access to quality, affordable health care. Supporting all Georgians' physical and mental well-being and financial security is essential to her efforts to build One Georgia and help every Georgian thrive.

As Governor, Stacey will ensure that Georgians living with diabetes have access to the health care services and medications they need. Specifically, she will:

- **Expand Medicaid** so eligible Georgians living with diabetes who are uninsured and cannot afford the costs of diabetes treatment gain affordable access to the services and medications they need to stay healthy and help them control their diabetes care, beginning with affordable insulin.
- Implement a safety net **Emergency Insulin Program** that will provide an emergency one-month supply of insulin for qualifying Georgians. This program will be open to low- and moderate-income Georgians who, for example, have gaps in health insurance coverage or who may be unable to pay for their monthly insulin supply due to the loss of a job, a recent move, or other circumstances. By helping reduce patient rationing and by filling in just a one-month gap, the State's initial allocation of \$23M for this program will help Georgians living with diabetes avoid further preventable complications and even death.
- **Demand federal action** while serving as a partner with leaders in Washington. Passage of Reverend Warnock's Affordable Insulin Now Act would cap the patient cost of insulin at \$35 a month. If the federal government has not taken meaningful action or could be doing more, Stacey will use the full influence of the governor's office to be an advocate for Georgians living with diabetes.

² U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock press release, March 30, 2022