

AT&T Ameritech/SBC Retirees - We are AASBCR®

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BLUE BULLETIN

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Affordable Insulin Now Act

Diabetes is a chronic condition that results in too much sugar circulating in the bloodstream which, untreated, can lead to disorders of the circulatory, nervous and immune systems. More than 37 million Americans have diabetes. Diabetes was the underlying cause of death of 87,647 Americans in 2019 (latest data on www.diabetes.org). A MedPAC report to Congress lists diabetes as the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S.

Over 7 million Americans require some form of insulin, a medication that helps regulate blood sugar. Insulin prices in the U.S have tripled over the past decade. Newer versions of insulin retail for between \$175 and \$300 per vial. Most patients with diabetes need two to three vials per month, and some can require more.

On March 31, 2022, the House passed **H.R.6833, Affordable Insulin Now Act**. Under the **Affordable Insulin Now Act**, Medicare Part D plans, both stand-alone drug plans and Medicare Advantage drug plans, will be required to charge no more than \$35 for whichever insulin products they cover in 2023 and 2024, and for all insulin products beginning in 2025. Private group or individual insurance plans would be required to cover one of each insulin dosage form (vial, pen) and insulin type (rapid-acting, short-acting, intermediate-acting, and long-acting) for no more than \$35 per month.

We encourage all of our members to contact their Senators and urge them to work for the passage of the companion bill, **S.3700, Affordable Insulin Now Act**. The National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN) has created an online action alert letter that makes it easy for you to do just that. The following instructions provide information on how to access and send that action alert letter.

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Go to <https://www.nrln.org/action-alert/#/home/>. Scroll down and click on the "TAKE ACTION" button below the **Pass Affordable Insulin Now Act**. Enter your street address and zip code and click "GO". You will then see the sample letter for you to email to your Senators. Follow the instructions to complete and mail the letter.

If you have a problem with this link, go to www.nrln.org and click on "Respond to an Action Alert" in the red bar near the top of the NRLN website home page. When the Action Alert page appears, scroll down and click on the "TAKE ACTION" button below the **Pass Affordable Insulin Now Act**. Enter your street address and zip code and click "GO". You will then see the sample letter for you to email to your Senators. Follow the instructions to complete and mail the letter.