



HB 4252 Helping West Virginians with Diabetes

House-passed HB 4252 would help West Virginians who have health insurance be able to afford the care they need to stay healthy, avoid expensive health complications and emergencies, and to stay working and productive.

HB 4252 would create reasonable patient out-of-pocket spending cost caps:

- Insulin copay cap \$35 (now \$100)
- Insulin supplies and equipment insurance copay cap \$100
- Insulin pump copay cap \$250 for one pump every two years

Mindy's story

Listen to Mindy [tell her personal story](#) to best understand how critical HB 4252 is to West Virginians.

West Virginian has the [highest diabetes mortality rate](#) in the country.

- According to the [American Diabetes Association](#), 232,000 West Virginia adults (16 percent) have diagnosed diabetes.
- An additional 45,000 West Virginians have diabetes but don't know it, greatly increasing their health risks.
- Another 35 percent of West Virginia adults are diagnosed as pre-diabetic.

Cost of managing diabetes is growing unaffordable for many West Virginians.

Technology is quickly replacing finger pricks and test-strips to check blood sugar (glucose) levels. Today sensors, monitors, and automatic pumps more accurately deliver insulin and regulate sugar levels. While modern supplies and equipment can greatly improve health and quality of life, many West Virginians simply cannot afford them. Even the "old-fashioned" test strips cost a typical patient over [\\$3,200 a year](#).

According to the American Diabetes Association, people with diabetes have medical expenses approximately 2.3 times higher than those who do not have diabetes.

Uncontrolled diabetes creates high long-term costs & unnecessary disability

Uncontrolled diabetes has enormous costs for the individual, the health insurer, the health care system, and government. Uncontrolled blood sugar levels can lead to trips to the hospital for hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia (high and low blood glucose), ulcers, infections, heart attack, and acute kidney failure. Long-term uncontrolled diabetes can result in blindness and limb amputations.

From a macro-economic standpoint, uncontrolled diabetes leads to huge workforce productivity losses including lost household productivity, inability to work, absenteeism—costing our state hundreds of millions of dollars annually. People with uncontrolled diabetes that causes health complications have [significantly higher rates of absenteeism](#) than people without diabetes.