



TYLER VORPAGEL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 27TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Assembly Bill 1: relating to coverage of individuals with pre-existing conditions.

Testimony of State Representative Tyler Vorpapel

Assembly Committee on Health

January 15, 2019

Thank you, Chairman Sanfelippo, Ranking Member Kolste and committee members, for your time listening to testimony on this important initiative.

This bill is personal to me because I have a pre-existing condition.

Almost eight years ago, I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes, also known as Juvenile Diabetes. No one in my family history was ever diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes, so as a healthy 26 year old I wasn't prepared at all. At the time, I was most concerned about how I would manage this diagnosis day-in and day-out for the rest of my life. There is no cure for Type 1 Diabetes, so it's a daily regimen of checking blood sugars, keeping track of everything you eat, your stresses and physical activity, and balancing all of this with insulin.

At the time, the farthest thing from my mind was the cost that was going to be with me for the rest of my life. Not only am I expected to have a minimum of four doctor appointments a year with a general physician, endocrinologist, and ophthalmologist, I also use test strips to determine my blood sugar eight to ten times a day, control my insulin pump and of course use insulin to make sure my blood sugars stay in range.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 8% of Wisconsinites are diagnosed with some form of diabetes, and 28% of Wisconsinites have diabetes and don't even know it. Health insurance coverage is vital for every single one of these people with a pre-existing condition, like it is for me and so many others.

Over the past several years, we have come together as policymakers to move Wisconsin forward on a number of health care initiatives — including helping seniors with Alzheimer's and dementia, covering all those in poverty under BadgerCare, and expanding access to medication-assisted treatment for those who struggle with addiction. We've done this with broad bipartisan support, and I want this bill to be no different.



TYLER VORPAGEL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 27TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Please do not take lightly the impact this legislation has on our neighbors, friends and family members. I am so grateful for the quality health care that helps me manage my condition, and I understand the costs associated with it. No matter what the situation, everyone deserves to have access to quality health care insurance. It is our job as legislators to come together and do all we can so that Wisconsinites can get personalized and affordable health care. I hope we can all work together on this important legislation to make it a reality.

Again, thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.