

TESTIMONY OF ANTROINETTE WORSHAM

**BEFORE THE U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND REFORM**

**HEARING ON
“EXAMINING THE ACTIONS OF DRUG COMPANIES
IN RAISING PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES”**

JANUARY 29, 2019

My name is Antroinette Worsham and I am the mother of two Type 1 Diabetics. My oldest daughter Antavia was diagnosed at the age of 16 and only lived 6 years due to the high cost of insulin. She started rationing her insulin in 2016 when she was kicked off BCMH Bureau for Children of Medical Handicaps. My youngest daughter 'Antanique was diagnosed at the age of 12, now 18. She is a freshman at the University of Toledo. I fear the same thing will happen to Antanique when she turns 21. How does pharmaceuticals think college students are supposed to be able to pay for high drug cost on top of high tuition room and board?

Type 1 Diabetics need insulin to live or they will die as my daughter and other T1Ds have. When type 1 diabetics ration their insulin it causes them to go into dka (diabetes ketoacidosis). I feel type 1 diabetics do not get the attention they deserve

The rise of drug cost has impacted so many Americans and we are demanding a change NOW. Pharmaceuticals are charging over 5000%. Last year the federal appeals court acknowledged the drug gouging law was unconstitutional. When will, Americans see a change? How is allowing pharmaceuticals to price gouge making America great again? In November 2018, I protested outside of Sanofi held by Righcare Alliance and Lowns Institute demanding to lower drug cost. Just this year Insulin manufactures are still raising the cost. Novo Nordisk and Sanofi raised prices by 5% only 5 days into 2019. Patients over Profits! Many states are fighting for drug transparency legislation.

I founded T1Diabetes Journey Inc in honor of my daughter Antavia to raise diabetes awareness by hosting health fairs and provide diabetics with financial assistance. I am working diligently on getting grants to help fund my organization. Since, the government shutdown I have received so many calls from T1Ds needing help. One young man in Florida states he needs 12 vials of insulin. Due to his insurance stopping he cannot afford it. The insulin manufactures are telling us that they have programs to help offset the cost, but that's not a program that will help NOW. He was told it could take 2 weeks for approval, another company told him he is over income restrictions. We as consumers are the reason businesses are successful. We need more than a paycheck. We need them to FIGHT for affordable healthcare for all. Not just for those living below or above poverty. What about the middle class as myself, as my daughter when she graduates?

A college student fresh out of college could possibly gross 40,000 per year: monthly income \$3,400.00

Rent \$800.00

Car \$300.00

Food \$500.00

Insurance \$200.00

Utilities/cell phone \$200.00

Student loans \$500.00

Car insurance \$150.00

Renter insurance \$20.00

Insulin \$1,000.00

Miscellaneous

Total \$3400 monthly

Looks the T1D is in the negative

I am not an expert but a mother of two diabetics who are affected by the rising price of insulin. In two years my daughter will be 21 and no longer be eligible for BCMH. I am crying out and asking for you to review the pharmaceutical drug gouging and make healthcare affordable for all.

The drug price proposal that President Trump has put forward does not help majority of Americans struggling to afford their medication.