

Hyde-Smith cosponsors bipartisan legislation to cap out-of-pocket insulin costs

INSULIN Act Would Limit Out-of-Pocket Cost at \$35, Reinforce Patient Protections

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Cindy

Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) on Tuesday agreed to cosponsor bipartisan legislation to lower the cost of insulin, reinforce patient protections, and make the

lifesaving medicine more accessible for Mississippians living with diabetes.

The Improving Needed Safeguards for Users of Lifesaving Insulin Now (INSULIN) Act (S.4189) would cap the monthly out-of-pocket cost of insulin at \$35 for Americans on private and employer-sponsored insurance and create a pilot program to provide insulin at the same cost to Americans without insurance.

“The INSULIN Act represents a strong, bipartisan effort to try to stop the unnecessary year-over-year increase in the price of insulin. Mississippians from across the state share their stories of their stress caused by insulin prices,” Hyde-Smith said. “These elevated insulin prices not only affect family bud-

gets, but they also cost taxpayers more as those living with diabetes ration dosages and end up hospitalized with other complications. The INSULIN Act is a step in the right direction.”

S.4189 would directly address the root causes of high insulin list prices, while simultaneously extending vital patient protections, fostering competition and broadening access to needed insulin products.

The INSULIN Act would:

- Limit out-of-pocket costs for patients with diabetes by ensuring that group and individual market health plans waive any deductible and limit cost-sharing to no more than \$35 per month for at least one insulin of each type and dosage form.

- Mandate that pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) pass through 100 percent of insulin rebates and other discounts received from manufacturers to plan sponsors, reducing perverse incentives in the

insulin market that encourage high list prices to help patients in the form of reduced premiums.

- Promote generic and biosimilar competition to lower costs for patients.

- Create a pilot grant program for 10 states to implement programs to identify uninsured diabetes patients and provide them with insulin at \$35 a month.

- Establish an insulin resource center and hotline for uninsured diabetes patients to connect them with resources about diabetes and programs to help them secure insulin.

Senate Diabetes Caucus Co-Chairs U.S. Senators Shaheen (R-N.H.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) introduced S.4189, which has been referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. With Hyde-Smith, a total of 26 Senators are sponsoring the measure.

On the Senate Appropriations Committee, Hyde-Smith has supported funding for diabetes research, in addition to pressuring

agencies like the Federal Trade Commission to investigate PBMs for market manipulation and other anticompetitive practices that increase the cost of prescription drugs like insulin. She has also encouraged the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to help reduce prices by accelerating the approval of lower-cost, generic insulin products.

According to the Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi is ranked in the top five states nationally for diabetes rates, with an estimated one in seven Mississippians living with the disease. Mississippi has one of the highest diabetes mortality rates in the country, recording upwards of 34.7 to 42.1 deaths per 100,000 residents. The national rate is 27.8 deaths per 100,000 residents.

S.4189 is supported by the American Diabetes Association, Breakthrough T1D, the Endocrine Society, the National Kidney Foundation and other stakeholders.



Sidestepping the Summer Slide

Summer is in full swing at the McRae household! Summer camps. Pool parties. T-ball games. The works. With all the memories being made during summer, however, it’s important to keep the kids’ brains engaged too. The summer slide is real – especially as screen time dominates young people’s spare time.



and authors. Take a lesson from technology: keep track of their reading streak and let them earn small prizes throughout summer as they reach key milestones.

Third, consider welcoming the kids into the kitchen. Cooking with parents is a great way for kids to learn addition and fractions – and sometimes, even chemistry! A simple Google search will produce hundreds of options for age-appropriate cooking.

Finally, take advantage of the Mississippi Treasury’s financial wellness series. At treasury.ms.gov/FinancialEducation, you can find brain games and activities for kids of all ages to understand more about money management.

Avoiding the summer slide doesn’t mean spending the kids’ break emersed in a textbook. Instead, there are opportunities to build math, money management, and reading skills all around us. So, enjoy the pool, the summer camps, and T-ball practices. Just find a little time every day to offer kids practical learning in a family setting, and they’ll be more than caught up by Labor Day.

Have a safe and fun-filled summer!

Mississippi Treasurer David McRae is the 55th Treasurer for the State of Mississippi. In this role, he helps manage the state’s cash flow, oversees College and Career Savings Mississippi, and has returned more than \$170 million in unclaimed money to Mississippians. For more information, visit Treasury.MS.gov.

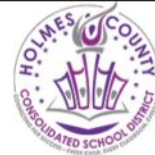
On average, researchers find that students lose one to three months of academic knowledge during summer vacation – often in mathematics, a fundamental building block for a well-rounded education.

With the state’s dramatic education transformation (familarly, the Mississippi Miracle), we have made huge strides in our state’s education scores during a time when other states’ assessments were falling quickly. In fact, Mississippi has gone from almost dead last in national education ratings to the top ten.

But we must not lose that momentum simply because our kids are “being kids” over the summer. Of course, the solution is not to force kids back into a classroom during the summer months. Instead, it’s shifting the focus to practical learning while they’re enjoying their free time. Let me give you a few ideas.

First, consider launching a regular family game night. A few hours of Monopoly can teach kids critical thinking and money management. Yahtzee can up their mental math skills. Scrabble can get them thinking about spelling. Even a card game can teach problem solving and pattern recognition. Sneak in a few games a week, and the kids won’t even notice they’re getting a few hours of education at the same time.

Second, make reading a daily habit. During the heat of the day, bring the kids inside to sit down with a good book. Challenge them to read from different genres



FREE SUMMER MEALS!

The Holmes County Consolidated School District announces its participation in the federally funded Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Under the SFSP, nutritious meals are provided free of charge to children 18 years and under.

MEAL SITES & TIMES

<p>William Dean Jr. Elementary School 96 Rockport Rd Lexington, MS 39095</p>	<p>Holmes County Central High School 9479 Brozville Rd Lexington, MS 39095</p>
<p>Breakfast 7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Breakfast 7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.</p>
<p>Lunch 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Lunch 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</p>

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- (2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: Program.Intake@usda.gov.

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