

# PROTECT OUR CARE

## Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, \$35 Insulin Cap For South Dakota Seniors Starts January 1st

Help has arrived! Starting January 1, 2023, insulin will be capped at \$35 a month for all Medicare Part D beneficiaries. President Biden and Democrats in Congress have been working tirelessly to put money back in the pockets of American seniors by capping the price of insulin. The \$35 cap will change the lives of the millions of insulin users on Medicare who will no longer have to decide between affording the medication they need to survive or putting food on the table. Taking insulin as prescribed also reduces the likelihood of costly complications such as vision loss, heart disease, and kidney disease.

### **BY THE NUMBERS**

- [128,672](#) South Dakota Medicare Part D beneficiaries are eligible for the \$35 insulin cap starting January 1st.
- [7,550](#) South Dakota insulin users will directly benefit from the insulin cap.
- Republicans in Congress, including Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, **blocked** a universal insulin cap to help millions of Americans.

**Makes Insulin Accessible And Affordable For Nearly 130,000 South Dakota Seniors.** In 2020, there were more than [3.2 million](#) insulin users on Medicare Part D, with nearly 1.7 million purchasing their insulin without low-income subsidies. This includes 128,672 South Dakotans dependent on insulin to survive. On average, seniors with Medicare Part D who are not receiving subsidies pay an average of [\\$572](#) every year for this life saving medication — an unthinkable sum for many on fixed incomes. Under the Inflation Reduction Act, insulin copays for seniors on Medicare will be capped at [\\$35](#) each month starting on January 1st.

**Affordable Insulin Directly Helps Seniors Of Color And Rural Seniors.** People of color are disproportionately affected by diabetes when compared to their white counterparts with [over 12 percent](#) of Black adults and 11.8 percent of Hispanics being diagnosed with the disease. Black Americans also continue to be the [hardest hit](#) when it comes to affording their prescription drugs and paying medical bills.

According to a 2018 study, rural Americans are [17 percent](#) more likely to suffer from diabetes than urban Americans. Diabetes risk factors are [higher](#) in rural areas than their urban and suburban counterparts as they have [lower access](#) to health care providers, fewer transportation options to receive care, and higher rates of being uninsured.

These seniors are forced to stop taking their medication or cut doses in half. Diabetics suffer severe effects such as numbness in feet and nerve damage in the eyes when they stop taking doses as prescribed. Patients who suffer chronic complications can expect to pay upwards of an additional [\\$650](#) per year. The insulin cap provision in the Inflation Reduction Act will vastly improve the lives of millions of vulnerable insulin users.

**Republicans Blocked Insulin Cap for Diabetics Not on Medicare.** In early August, as the final negotiations were being made on the Inflation Reduction Act, Republicans in the Senate, including Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, unified together to make sure that the \$35 insulin cap was not [universal](#). In a country where [80 percent](#) of diabetics have had to go into debt in order to pay for insulin, this type of action by Republicans reeks of the [influence](#) of Big Pharma.