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DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

May 25, 2021

RE: DPSFV Supports Assembly Bill 97 (Insulin Affordability)

Representatives of the Honorable San Fernando Valley Delegation:

On behalf of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV), we are pleased to report that our Executive Board voted to support AB 97, which will exempt the cost of insulin from all state-regulated health benefit plans and insurance deductibles. We urge you to support AB 97.

DPSFV was founded in 1978 and is chartered by the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee. Our organization is the coordinating body for a coalition of twenty-one Democratic Clubs located in the six Assembly Districts (38, 39, 43, 45, 46, and 50) which are wholly or partially in the San Fernando Valley.

The DPSFV Executive Board met this month and voted to support this vital piece of legislation. The high cost of insulin impacts the health and wellbeing of all Californians with diabetes, with disproportionate impacts on African American communities which experience significantly higher rates of diabetes. Additionally, the COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated financial hardships for millions of Californians, forcing disadvantaged insulin users to choose between paying rent, buying groceries, and purchasing life-saving medication.

The American Diabetes Association (ADA), cosponsors of AB 97, found in 2018 that many insulin patients who face high out-of-pocket costs cannot adhere to their diabetes care plan and as a result ration insulin for financial reasons. This bill will prohibit HMOs and insurance companies from requiring Californians to spend thousands of dollars on their deductible before being able to access their co-pay for insulin. To date, over 14 states have implemented bipartisan legislation to limit out-of-pocket insulin costs and the previous iteration of AB 97 cleared the Assembly with overwhelming bipartisan support.

We urge you to support AB 97.

Please note that DPSFV will be tracking this bill as it travels through the Legislature. Your voting record will be noted and may be considered should you ever seek our endorsement. Your office is always welcome to contact DPSFV if you have any questions.

Sincerely and respectfully,



Chair Sean M. Rivas
Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley

cc: Assembly Members Rivas, Friedman, Gabriel, Nazarian (author), and Bloom
Senators Hertzberg, Portantino, Stern and Allen

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