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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

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March 1, 2023

Lars Fruergaard Jørgensen
President and Chief Executive Officer
Novo Nordisk A/S
Novo Alle 1
Bagsværd, Denmark 2880

Mr. Jørgensen:

As a result of mounting public pressure from people with diabetes, Eli Lilly announced today that it would be reducing the outrageous price of insulin by 70 percent. I urge you to join Eli Lilly in substantially lowering the price your company charges for insulin and make certain that all Americans can purchase this lifesaving drug.

Let's be clear: Insulin is not a new drug. It was discovered 100 years ago by Canadian scientists who sold the patent rights of insulin for just \$1 because they wanted to save lives, not make pharmaceutical executives extremely wealthy. And yet, as a result of unacceptable corporate greed, the price of insulin has gone up by over 1,000 percent since 1996 causing 1.3 million people with diabetes to ration insulin last year while your companies made billions of dollars in profits. That is absolutely unacceptable.

I have heard from too many Americans who have lost loved ones because they could not afford insulin. In 2019, I took a busload of people with diabetes to Canada, where they were able to purchase the same insulin products they bought in the United States for one-tenth the price.

People with diabetes should not be forced to pay \$98 for a vial of insulin that costs just \$8 to manufacture and can be purchased in Canada for just \$12.

I look forward to hearing from you about the steps you will take to substantially reduce the price of insulin as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders

Chair

U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions