

Mr. Chairman and Members of this Committee,

My name is Bruce Shockman and I am from LaMoure, ND and I am in support of this bill HR 1288. I am the father of Colten Shockman, who is 25 years old, has autism, and was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2008. This letter concerns our continued efforts to help Colten manage his diabetes.

Colten presently is living on his own in Jamestown ND. Triumph, Inc, a social services group, has helped Colten with employment , his social life, and learning to living on his own. Over the past few years, Colten went hypoglycemic during the night several times, and these incidents were life threatening situations for him. Working with Triumph, we decided Colten should have 24 hour care as the only way to be sure of protecting him from another serious event like this. We also began to seriously consider some new technology opportunities to help Colten with his diabetes. With the help of Mayo Pharmacy in Bismarck, we were able to provide Colten with a Tandem smart insulin pump. Medicaid covered this pump. The pump works with a continuous glyceimic monitor or CGM to continually monitor Colten's blood sugar. It also works with a smart phone application, so Colten's blood sugar could be continually monitored by anyone sharing the app. As of February, Colten will no longer need a staff person 24 hours a day for safety because of the CGM system.

The Tandem pump works with the Dexcom CGM. One with out the other is like having a car without a steering wheel. The Dexcom CGM cost Colten about \$400.00 per month. We are thankful that Medicaid covered the cost of the Tandem pump, and it would only make sense to include the CGM also. We have managed to cover these costs out of our pocket, but in many cases, this may not be an option. For Colten, this would put the burden back on the social services at great cost for 24 hour care again.

I ask that this legislator would please consider passing HR bill 1288. It would not only give my son and others life saving help, but would save social service a lot of funding for full time staffing for my son. Thank you very much for taking the time to consider this for Colten and many others like him.

Sincerely,

Bruce Shockman