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New Hampshire Union Leader

Proposed insulin cap for all with insurance clears key U.S Senate panel

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Key takeaways

- U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen's bipartisan legislation to cap insulin copayments at \$35 per month has advanced out of the Senate HELP Committee, bringing Americans one step closer to a cap. [See more](#)

Following a decades-long fight, U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., has won an overwhelmingly bipartisan committee vote in her bid to cap insulin copayments at \$35 per month for all health insurance plans.

Shaheen said she's hopeful that the 18-4 vote of the Senate Health, Education,



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"I am so proud to see my bipartisan legislation to make insulin more affordable advance out of the Senate HELP Committee and bring us one step closer to capping insulin at \$35 a month for Americans across the country," Shaheen said in a statement.

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"At a time when so many Granite Staters feel squeezed by the cost of living, this is a concrete step we can take to lower health care prices for millions of

Americans."

The bill, known as Improving Needed Safeguards for Users of Lifesaving Insulin Now or INSULIN Act of 2026, would extend the insulin cap on costs that Congress had approved for those on Medicare that took effect in 2023.

Health care affordability has emerged as a leading election issue and Shaheen's co-chair of the Senate Diabetes Caucus is Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, who is locked in the most targeted Senate race in the Northeast this fall.

"While today marks a major milestone in ensuring insulin is affordable and available to those whose lives depend on it, our work is not done. With broad support and growing bipartisan momentum behind my bill, I am committed to doing all I can to secure a vote on the Senate floor and pass this critical piece of legislation," Shaheen said.

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Polling done by the American Diabetes Association has shown that 72% of Americans pay more than \$35 a month for insulin and nearly 40% pay more than \$150.

Conservative tax lobby group opposed it

The bill combines the proposed benefit with a companion proposal from Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., and John Kennedy, R-La., that would create a five-year pilot program to provide a \$35/month insulin cap for uninsured patients in 10 targeted states.

In 2024, the four senators had their separate bills, both of which failed to pass the Senate. They decided this year to join forces after reducing the cost of the pilot from \$500 million to \$100 million.

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Shaheen, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has told colleagues there could be spending bill options on which to attach this

legislation by year's end such as the reconciliation bill the Republican-led U.S. House approved along party lines earlier this week.

As the state's senior senator, Shaheen became a national leader on this issue when her granddaughter, Elle, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 8.

Her work has led to legislative accomplishments on insulin pricing and support technology.

The bipartisan legislation is supported by the American Diabetes Association, Breakthrough T1D, the Endocrine Society, the National Kidney Foundation and others.

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The National Taxpayers Union, a conservative lobbying group, had urged Senate committee members to reject this and other healthcare mandate measures.

"While reducing out-of-pocket expenses is perfectly laudable, government mandates that manipulate prices do not eliminate costs, they merely shift them to other actors in the health care supply chain," NTU said in a legislative alert.

"By mandating a cost-sharing cap, this legislation could result in insurance companies absorbing higher costs, which would likely be passed onto patients through higher premiums."

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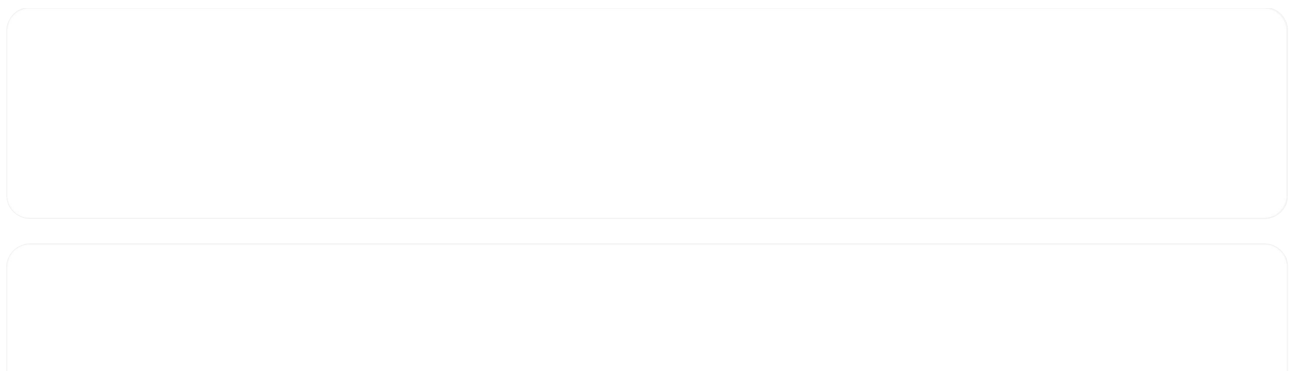
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