

**Melissa Hortman**  
**Speaker of the House**

District 36B  
Anoka  
Hennepin



# Minnesota House of Representatives

October 21, 2019

Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka  
Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave. W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Majority Leader Gazelka:

Thank you for agreeing to move forward with an insulin work group, and letting me know that you have named Senators Pratt, Benson, and Wiklund to the group. As I conveyed on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>, I have appointed Representatives Howard and Liebling, and Leader Daudt has appointed himself to represent his Caucus. Governor Walz conveyed that staff from his office and Commissioner Harpstead are available as well.

I am hopeful this group of legislators and members of the executive branch will be able to resolve the differences between the House and Senate approaches to providing Minnesotans with emergency access to insulin, and will report back once they have achieved a compromise.

Time is of the essence – lives are on the line. It remains the case that Minnesotans need and deserve emergency access to insulin. We must find a compromise that serves the needs of Minnesotans – as soon as possible.

I have directed the House members of the work group to report on the status of their work in 60 days. I am hopeful that by December 18<sup>th</sup>, if not sooner, we will receive a report from the work group that they have been able to reach a compromise and that we are ready to proceed to enact a law that will help save lives in Minnesota.

Consistent with the values of our representative democracy, the public must be an integral part of this conversation. I leave the details of the public process to the members of the work group. I know from their public statements on Friday that both Senator Pratt and Representative Howard are committed to an open and public process.



I look forward to our continued work on this important issue, and further conversations with you and Governor Walz to insure this work is brought to an expeditious conclusion that serves the interests of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,



Melissa Hortman  
Speaker of the House

cc: Governor Tim Walz  
Commissioner Jodi Harpstead  
Majority Leader Ryan Winkler  
Senate Minority Leader Tom Bakk  
House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt  
Senator Eric Pratt  
Senator Michelle Benson  
Senator Melissa Wiklund  
Representative Michael Howard  
Representative Tina Liebling  
Representative Steve Drazkowski