

Hello- My Name is Nicole Smith-Holt, I am from Richfield MN, I have joined you today to talk about my son and the issue of insulin insecurity.

3 years ago this week my son was getting ready to celebrate his 24th birthday when he started feeling ill, as the days progressed his symptoms got worse so he went to the clinic, his diagnosis was T1D.

At the time of diagnosis he was covered under my insurance, as a state employee the coverage was fairly decent, he was spending out of pocket between 200-300 a month for insulin and supplies.

On May 20th 2017 Alec turned 26, on June 1st he was removed from my health care coverage. Because of his income and family size of 1 he did not qualify for state assistance, subsidy for the ACA and was forced to look at purchasing coverage from the market place. The options were limited and not at all affordable, we was looking at a price tag of 450 a month with high deductible of 7600, because of the high deductible he chose to not purchase the policy and just try to afford the monthly expense to pay out of pocket for insulin and supplies. You can imagine the shock when he went to the pharmacy the first time to make his purchase and was told the total was 1300, unfortunately at the time he did not have enough to cover the cost so he went home empty handed. At this point it appears he was rationing what he had left to last until payday which was June 30th. Unfortunately on the evening of June 27th I received a call no parent ever wants to receive, I was told that my son was found dead alone on his bedroom floor. My son died because the 1 thing that was created to keep him alive was too expensive for him to purchase that day he went to the pharmacy.

On his death certificate the official cause of death is listed as DKA- Diabetic Ketoacidosis, the unofficial cause of death is slipping through the cracks of our broken health care system and corporate greed.

Healthcare is a human right, health is a human right and insulin is a human right!!

As I look over your website I came across the items that I would like to discuss with you:

1. Your Mission- you report that your mission is to make medicines that help people live longer, healthier, more active lives. My son's life was cut short because your insulin cost too much, your insulin pricing cost him his life!!
2. Your Values- your values are integrity, excellence and respect for people. Your greed for profits currently outweighs your respect for human life. When will you start living up to your values?
3. Your Promise- your promise is to unite caring with the discovery to make life better for people around the world. How is making life better if people are dying because they cannot afford the cost of your decades-old insulin products?

In September 2017 there was a protest outside these doors in response to your continued price increases that are putting lives at risk. We demanded the answer to two questions: How much does it cost Lilly to manufacture a vial of Humalog, and what are Lilly's profits on each vial? These questions represent the foundation of the injustice, so we will pose them again and again and again, until they are answered.

Profits should never come before the lives of people.

When you go home tonight and sit down for your family dinner, when you say good night and give your family a hug, I ask that you remember my family and the grief we feel daily at the loss of our beloved son, brother, grandson, father and friend- Alec.