

In 1970 I was "laid off" by Railway Express Company from my job as a delivery truck driver. The reason given was that I could not get a license to drive interstate commerce because of my insulin dependant diabetes. Perhaps back then the methods of controlling diabetes and measuring blood sugar warranted such a rule.

Thirty years later treatments and measurements of diabetes and sugar control have advanced to the point that such a ban is no longer necessary. An individual assessment based on the applicant's control of his/her diabetes, willingness to test blood sugar levels at various times related to driving, and knowledge of the proper procedures based on those readings should enable a person to obtain a Commercial Drivers License.

The proposed regulation that a person must have three years experience driving commercially will make the change to individual assessment meaningless.

As both a person whose livelihood was at one time affected by diabetes and this provision, and as an Advocacy Field Director for the American Diabetes Association, I urge you to rewrite this regulation so that it fairly implements the change to an individual assessment. People with diabetes should not be denied access to the hundreds of thousands of good jobs that are currently unavailable to them.

Steve Bieringer
1144 S. Josephine St.
Denver, CO
(303) 717-6707