

September 20, 2001

Docket Management Facility
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room PL-401
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Docket No. FMCSA-2001-9800

The proposed exemption program to allow insulin-treated diabetics to operate CMVs in interstate commerce is long overdue. As this well-documented proposal indicates, the time has come to update the agency's policy implemented in 1970, when diabetes was far less understood and excellent individual control was less attainable.

It simply is unfair, perhaps even discriminatory, for a well-managed diabetic CMV operator to be denied the opportunity to operate in the interstate commerce. His or her ability to operate a CMV safely should not be restricted by state lines. We believe both medical experts and civil rights laws would support this.

Being raised in a family of 3 insulin treated diabetics, we know first hand that diabetics manage their overall health better than most non-diabetics. Well-managed diabetics eat healthy, balanced meals, exercise regularly, and consistently monitor blood glucose levels. The recent (1999) study cited in this docket supports this with evidence that diabetic CMV operators "have a level of safety that is the same or better than a comparison group or the national accident rate."

Finally, the excellent FAA program developed in 1994 lends further support to expediting the FMCSA's proposed exemption program. The individual with insulin-treated diabetic who can be granted a pilots license should not be denied an interstate Commercial Driver's License.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim and Jan Nelson
Wayne and Lu Nelson
Jean Jordet
David and Twyla Rienstra
Robert and Shirley Rotschafer
Jon and Nicole Rienstra
Jennifer Rienstra