

Vultures

Adapted from "More Than You Take" from the soundtrack of Joseph: King of Dreams by Danny Pelfrey

Performance: <https://youtu.be/4L6AWlnWLck>

key: Eb

Capo: 1st capo

Intro: D A C Bm

verse 1: *child with T1DM - scared*

 E D A
My blood is sweet, but this drug keeps me alive.
 E D A E
But what scares me is that I need it to survive, live, and thrive.
Em D A
O God, oh why did you curse me with this life?
Em D E
And my God, I'm terrified I'll run out, collapse, and die.

chorus: *expressing frustration to big pharma*

 A
Can't you hear us when we call out to you?
 E D
Are we just a little pawn in your game?
 A E
You may be prideful of the profits you accrued,
 E7 A E
but keep one thing clear.
 A
We're the ones who have to pay with our lives,
 E D
and still we have to suffer pain and strife.
 A E
We're sick of having to make do.
 D A
How dare you turn when we call out to you!

C Bm

verse 2: *adult with T1DM - paying insurance*

 E D A
You've robbed me of everything that I have.
 E D A E
I've saved these funds and bought the insurance to make my dreams a reality.
Em D A
But why do you screw me to satisfy your greed?
Em D E
You've made it so that I have to turn to no one else but you.

chorus: *expressing frustration to big pharma*

 A
Can't you hear us when we call out to you?
 E D
Are we just a little pawn in your game?

A E
You may be prideful of the profits you accrued,
 E7 A E
but keep one thing clear.

 A
We're the ones who have to pay with our lives,
 E D
and still we have to suffer pain and strife.

 A E
We're sick of having to make do.

 D A A
How dare you turn when we call out to you!

bridge: *expressing frustration to health politicians*

C G A Bm
We won't forget when you fed the vultures' greed

C G Dsus4 A
We won't forget when you let us drown

C G A Bm
We won't forget when you let the vultures feed

C G D Esus4 E
We won't forget when you let us down

chorus: *expressing frustration to big pharma*

 A
Can't you hear us when we call out to you?

 E D
Are we just a little pawn in your game?

 A E
You may be prideful of the profits you accrued,
 E7 A E
but keep one thing clear.

 A
We're the ones who have to pay with our lives,
 E D
and still we have to suffer pain and strife.

 A E
We're sick of having to make do.

 D A
How dare you turn when we call out to you!

D A C Bm

verse 3/outro: *adult with T1DM worried about future climate disasters*

 E D A
When disaster strikes, we're told to "always be prepared".

 E D A E
We do our best, but how do we prepare when the chain breaks so easily?

Em D A
Are we invisible, or you just don't care,

Em D A E [fade out]
while you watch the whole world burn so needlessly?

Vultures

verse 1:

My blood is sweet, but this drug keeps me alive.
But what scares me is that I need it to survive, live, and thrive.
O God, oh why did you curse me with this life?
And my God, I'm terrified I'll run out, collapse, and die.

chorus:

Can't you hear us when we call out to you?
Are we just a little pawn in your game?
You may be prideful of the profits you accrued,
but keep one thing clear.
We're the ones who have to pay with our lives,
and still we have to suffer pain and strife.
We're sick of having to make do.
How dare you turn when we call out to you!

verse 2:

You've robbed me of everything that I have.
I've saved these funds and bought the insurance to make my dreams a reality.
But why do you screw me to satisfy your greed?
You've made it so that I have to turn to no one else but you.

chorus:

Can't you hear us when we call out to you?
Are we just a little pawn in your game?
You may be prideful of the profits you accrued,
but keep one thing clear.
We're the ones who have to pay with our lives,
and still we have to suffer pain and strife.
We're sick of having to make do.
How dare you turn when we call out to you!

bridge:

We won't forget when you fed the vultures' greed.
We won't forget when you let us drown.
We won't forget when you let the vultures feed.
We won't forget when you let us down!

chorus: expressing frustration to big pharma

Can't you hear us when we call out to you?
Are we just a little pawn in your game?
You may be prideful of the profits you accrued,
but keep one thing clear.
We're the ones who have to pay with our lives,
and still we have to suffer pain and strife.
We're sick of having to make do.
How dare you turn when we call out to you!

verse 3/outro:

When disaster strikes, we're told to "always be prepared".
We do our best, but how do we prepare when the chain breaks so easily?
Are we invisible, or you just don't care,
while you watch the whole world burn so needlessly?

Essay Topic: Living on the edge: the vulnerabilities of Type 1 diabetics to climate-related insulin immobility in the US

Research Question: To what extent has climate change impacted the health risks and insulin mobilities for type 1 diabetic patients in the USA?

Song Lyrics	Breakdown
<p>verse 1: My blood is sweet, but this drug keeps me alive. But what scares me is that I need it to survive, live, and thrive. O God, oh why did you curse me with this life? And my God, I'm terrified I'll run out, collapse, and die.</p>	<p>This depicts a young girl with T1DM. She has been diagnosed from a young age, which means she doesn't know a life outside of her condition but knows that she must monitor her glycemic levels and rely on insulin to live a fruitful life¹. She despises how much her condition controls her but is also terrified that she'll run out someday and she'll die. This is a real threat for many diabetics in the US, especially as prices for insulin continue to hike². It also is a harrowing image as innocent children should not have to be reminded of their mortality at such a young age.</p>
<p>verse 2: You've robbed me of everything that I have. I've saved these funds and bought the insurance to make my dreams a reality. But why do you screw me to satisfy your greed? You've made it so that I have to turn to no one else but you.</p>	<p>Verse 2 describes a young adult who had her life planned out: she bought all the right insurance and budgeted for her dream life. However, she is diagnosed with T1DM in adulthood, and while the insurance helps cover some of the costs, she is still struggling to pay off her expensive medical fees. However, she cannot turn to anyone else for insulin and her supplies as the monopoly of insulin is held in the hands of 3 companies: Novo Nordisk, Eli Lilly, and Sanofi³.</p>
<p>verse 3: When disaster strikes, we're told to "always be prepared". We do our best, but how do we prepare when supply chains break so easily? Are we invisible, or you just don't care, while you watch the whole world burn so needlessly?</p>	<p>If you think insulin mobilities are good on a normal day, boy do I have a story for you. Not only are supply chains easily broken, from the manufacture end like in Hurricane Maria⁴ to the distribution end in virtually every hurricane in the past decade⁵, the responsibility seems to fall on individuals themselves and volunteer organizations to distribute the insulin and take care of each other⁶. In the meantime, big corporations and federal governments like themselves seem to sit back and watch the whole world burn (literally, it's getting hot in here!) through their contributions or lack of actions to combat climate change. Has it occurred to them that with climate change comes more disasters with greater impacts? Do they realize how many more diabetic lives are made vulnerable alongside their money-hungry decisions?</p>

¹ (Funtanilla et al., 2019; Levitsky and Misra, 2023a)

² (Irving, 2021)

³ (Allen, 2023)

⁴ (Jarvis, 2018; Ponder et al., 2020; Thomas and Kaplan, 2017)

⁵ (Ponder et al., 2020)

⁶ (Dimentstein et al., 2020; DDRC, n.d.; Fisher et al., 2018)

<p>chorus: Can't you hear us when we call out to you? Are we just a little pawn in your game? You may be prideful of the profits you accrued, but keep one thing clear. We're the ones who have to pay with our lives, and still we have to suffer pain and strife. We're sick of having to make do. How dare you turn when we call out to you!</p>	<p>The chorus is essentially a rally against big pharma in the US and anyone enabling their actions, including politicians. The frustration of diabetic patients is palpable as they protest being numbers and chess pieces to manipulate for better profits, all at the cost of their health⁷. Some have even had to make do by measures like insulin rationing, which can have long-term health complications and can even lead to death⁸.</p> <p>As the chorus repeats, it gets louder and louder, calling for action about the immobility of insulin and vulnerabilities of T1D patients, because it seems like their voices aren't being heard.</p>
<p>bridge: We won't forget when you fed the vultures' greed. We won't forget when you let us drown. We won't forget when you let the vultures feed. We won't forget when you let us down!</p>	<p>This targets politicians specifically for not doing enough and for enabling the monopolies. Monopolies on the insulin supply chain have caused a 200% increase over the last decades⁹, and if it were not for federal government action, this would have gone unchecked. However, this aid came too little, too late. For example, while the Inflation Reduction Act by the Biden Administration was passed in August 2022 to cap monthly insulin prices to \$35 for Medicaid patients¹⁰, 43 republicans initially voted against a bill that would cap insulin prices at \$30¹¹ and was initially rejected. This showed a trend of consistently turning a blind eye.</p> <p>The vulture metaphor describes the mentality of big pharma countries, who are greedily profiting off the weak.</p>

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⁷ (Allen, 2023; Luo and Kesselheim, 2015; Rajkumar, 2020)

⁸ (Conner et al., 2019; Irving, 2021)

⁹ (Hernandez et al., 2020)

¹⁰ (The White House, 2023)

¹¹ (Hirsch, 2022)

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