



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S®

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.

October 1, 2019

Proponent Testimony for SB 173

Chairman Burke, Vice Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony for SB 173, which would designate September as Hirschsprung's Disease Awareness Month.

Hirschsprung disease, a congenital condition you are born with, which causes blockage of the intestine and the inability to adequately pass stool. The disease occurs in 1 out of every 5,000 live births occurring more often in males than in females, and sometimes can be associated with inherited conditions, one common example being Down syndrome.

Children with Hirschsprung disease will always need surgery to remove the non-functional segment of the intestine, and to restore the ability to push stool through the digestive tract and out of the body. With proper surgical intervention, the long-term outcomes for children with Hirschsprung disease are excellent, and most will go on to recover normal bowel control and function. However, without proper surgical intervention or treatment, children with Hirschsprung Disease will struggle throughout their entire lives with fecal incontinence and enterocolitis, an infection in their colon caused by the inability to stool properly. The increased awareness of this disease will allow for families to understand this diagnosis and know they have options to seek care of someone who is an expert in this field.

On behalf of Nationwide Children's Hospital, we applaud the Senate for raising awareness for this challenging condition and are happy to support the passage of SB 173. We believe that we cannot fulfill our goal without the community's and the legislators' support.

Regards,

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