

2/3/2020

Dear Chairman Burke and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Mindi Patterson and I live in Dayton. I am a parent of two sons with Type 1 Diabetes, a wife to a husband with Type 1, and sister-in-law of Meaghan Carter who had Type 1 for 18 years. Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease that attacks and kills the pancreas beta cells that produce insulin. My youngest son, Martin, was diagnosed at 8yo in December of 2013, my oldest son, Pierce, was diagnosed at 14yo in March of 2015, my husband, Roc, was diagnosed in April 2018, and Meaghan was diagnosed in October 2000. I am in support of Senate Bill 230 and Senate Resolution 406. Diabetic Ketoacidosis Awareness Day is important to me for very personal reasons. Diabetic Ketoacidosis occurs when the body does not have enough insulin and starts breaking down fat at a rate that is too fast and the liver makes too much fuel called ketones which causes the blood to become acidic. Possible complications that may result from DKA can be fluid buildup in the brain, cardiac arrest, and kidney failure which can and has resulted in death. Many times DKA is mistaken for the flu or another illness. Unfortunately it is common for Type 1 Diabetes diagnosis to happen with DKA (Diabetic Ketoacidosis). I hope this bill can help to raise awareness so that DKA has less impact on lives. Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013, my husband took our then 8yo to the pediatrician because we thought he had strep throat. Our doctor did a culture not the rapid test and prescribed amoxicillin. That night he started throwing up and did so throughout the evening. I was worried he was dehydrated and took him to the Children's ER early Saturday morning. They ran a rapid strep test which was negative and decided he had a stomach bug. After giving him an anti-nausea medicine, Zofran, which seemed to help they sent him home with a script of Zofran. That afternoon he began vomiting again. We called the ER at 2:30, 5:30, and 7:30 and they gave suggestions on how to use the Zofran to lessen his nausea. At the same time we were pushing crackers and pedialyte. He then continued vomiting every hour and progressively got worse. He started to vomit with just sips of water. Another call at dinnertime to the ER recommended we wait to see how his 8:30 dose went. With that dose he seemed to do better and he fell asleep in my arms as did I until around 10:30pm when I awoke to his rapid breathing and couldn't wake him. My husband called the ER and they said to wait 10 minutes and see if the breathing calmed down. I didn't wait. I carried him unconscious to my car, drove 5 minutes to the Children's hospital, carried him in and they whisked him away to the trauma room where in less than 15 minutes they diagnosed him with Type 1 diabetes and in severe DKA. His skin was ice cold and ashen, his lips purplish. His blood sugar was 860. Normal blood sugar is 70-120. He had swelling on the brain. But we were blessed he lived without long term issues from his harrowing diagnosis. He went home New Year's Day 2014. Because of the traumatic way Martin was diagnosed I got heavily involved in learning everything I could about diabetes and DKA, joining JDRF and learning even more on the research end as well. I never wanted to go through something like that again. My oldest son's diagnosis avoided DKA and had no time in the hospital, as did my husband's. But DKA isn't just brought on at diagnosis. Infection, injury, a serious illness, missing doses of insulin shots, failed insulin pumps, uncontrolled blood glucose, and surgery can cause people with diabetes to go into DKA. My sister-in-law, Meaghan, went into DKA three times in her life....2014, 2016, and the final one on Christmas 2018 that resulted in her death due to cardiac arrest. Meaghan went into DKA in 2014 due to a pump issue, 2016 due to illness, and 2018 due to losing her job and insurance as a nurse and rationing (using less) insulin. When my husband went to his sister's apartment at her death he cleaned out trash cans of vomit. She had thrown up Christmas Eve into Christmas Day and thought she had the flu. I don't want any other family to go through what we have. DKA can be deadly, awareness can help. I am in complete support of SB 230 and SR406. Please consider supporting these as well. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Mindi Patterson

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