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State Representative - District 53

I would first like to thank Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice-Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and the members of the House Education Committee for allowing Rep. Hall and myself to speak on HB 77 to require parents and guardians to receive informational materials on type 1 diabetes.

Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is a lifelong autoimmune disease that destroys healthy insulin-producing cells in the pancreas that are needed to regulate blood sugar and affects millions of individuals, including many children. Early detection of Type 1 Diabetes is critical, as it can prevent life-threatening complications and hospitalization.

This bill would require the Ohio Department of Health to develop Type 1 Diabetes informational materials to be made available to each school district, county office of education, and charter school through the department's website. Additionally, HB 77 would require school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to make those materials available to the parent or guardian of a student when the student is first enrolled in elementary school.

This bill would take a significant step toward improving the lives of countless individuals and families affected by Type 1 Diabetes. Just one test can detect Type 1 diabetes early, before insulin is needed. Early identification, staging, and monitoring can help individuals reduce risk of life-threatening complications and hospitalization, and better plan for and manage potential diagnosis. Georgia, California, and Oklahoma have already acted, in addition to a Kentucky resolution and Maryland including funding for their Department of Education to provide Type 1 Diabetes education materials to parents.

Now I will turn it over to my joint sponsor, Representative Hall.