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Thomas Hall
State Representative

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Rep. Hall HB 77 Sponsor Testimony

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice-Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and the members of the House Education Committee, thank you for allowing us to speak on HB 77.

Having the appropriate resources and information on hand is essential when facing a condition that, while incredibly widespread, is often misunderstood. The information that will be provided to parents and guardians, shall include a description of Type 1 Diabetes, along with the associated risk factors and warning signs in order to better inform parents of when to consult with a primary care provider for a screening. Additionally, it will detail what the screening process entails, the significance of the conditions stages, and the implications of test results identifying the presence of stage 1, stage 2, or stage 3 type 1 diabetes.

This issue is very personal to me, as when I was in the 4th grade I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. It is because of the care and attentiveness of my parents and doctors throughout these many years that I have been able to take control and care of my condition so effectively. I want to make sure that all students receive that same amount of care and attention that I received, and education and awareness is the first of many steps in making that a reality. All too often people either dismiss the symptoms or ignore it all together until they suffer a major attack that in many cases can be life threatening. Providing the resources and information that can allow parents to see the warning signs and intervene before that is a possibility is a huge step we can take in ensuring a better and brighter for our loved ones who live with this condition.

Once again, Chair Fowler Arthur and members of the House Education Committee thank you for allowing me to speak to this bill and I welcome any questions you may have.