



Proponent Testimony: House Bill 231

State Representative Tracy Richardson, District 86

Senate Education Committee

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Good morning Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Education Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to share the details of a provision of House Bill 231 with you today. This is a life-saving, permissive and common-sense provision that will protect Ohio's diabetic students.

The provision would empower schools and camps to take steps that could address life threatening low blood sugar situations, or hypoglycemia, adding a layer of protection to Ohio's children. Specifically, under existing law, schools and camps are limited in how they may store and administer glucagon, a necessary emergency medication for diabetics. Glucagon is a hormone that increases blood sugar levels, making it critically important to have readily available. In a recent study supported by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, approximately one out of every 300 children in the U.S. has been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

During severe cases where a hypoglycemic individual loses consciousness, glucagon is used as a last resort. Glucagon can save lives. Picture a child on a playground who begins to lose consciousness during recess due to low blood sugar in their body. Most likely, the child has a glucagon kit in their backpack back in their classroom. However, the teacher on duty doesn't know exactly where the kit is located in the classroom nor should the teacher leave the distressed student. The teacher does have a cell phone. A quick call to the nurse or the office to grab a stored glucagon kit could mean lifesaving minutes to a child. It can provide valuable time for

first responders to arrive and begin a more complete treatment. In this way, I believe it is clear that glucagon can be an essential tool for a school or camp's first aid kit.

Under this proposal, public and nonpublic schools, residential camps, day camps and municipal recreational camps would be permitted to obtain and store doses of glucagon to administer in an emergency. Schools and camps would be authorized to purchase glucagon for emergency use, and they would also be allowed to accept monetary donations for the glucagon, as well as actual donations of the drug from a drug wholesaler or manufacturer. Again, this is a permissive provision, and school districts and camps are in no way mandated to obtain Glucagon. School districts and camps would be required to develop and implement their own protocols for the administration of glucagon, if they choose to acquire it. These protocols will describe, for example, where the glucagon is to be stored, under what conditions is it to be administered, who can administer it, what training must be completed before someone can administer the glucagon, what protocol should be in place to involve emergency medical providers after a dose has been administered, and to whom a dosage of glucagon may be administered to.

This provision of House Bill 231 is modeled after Sub. HB 96 from the 130th General Assembly, which granted schools and camps the same permissive ability to acquire and store epi-pens for administration during medical emergencies. As in that Sub. House Bill, glucagon doses stored by schools or camps would not be prescribed to a particular individual, but rather made out to the school or camp. Furthermore, under this current proposal, schools, camps, their governing authorities, employees, contractors and volunteers would be given qualified immunity if glucagon is used in an emergency. These provisions protect school and camp employees from criminal sanctions or liability, provided they administered the glucagon in good faith.

Ultimately, this legislation would protect all diabetics, both by allowing schools and camps to be prescribed and stock glucagon, but also by protecting schools, camps, and their workers from potential sanctions that may apply under current law.

Thank you again for the opportunity to explain this important provision of HB 231. I hope I've made clear the importance of providing schools and camps the option to stock and use glucagon for emergency situations. Your support of House Bill 231 will could help save a child's life. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.