

Support Senate Bill 1487

Author: Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod—Sponsor: American Diabetes Association

Background

Approximately 15,000 California children have diabetes, many of whom attend public schools. While schools have ensured most children with diabetes have assistance with blood glucose monitoring and glucagon administration in the event of an emergency, accessing assistance with daily and as needed insulin administration remains very difficult. The increased understanding of how diabetes management can reduce complications has resulted in significant changes to daily diabetes management plans. While 10-20 years ago children did not require insulin during the school day, today most children with diabetes will require insulin while at school.

There are approximately 2,500 students per one school nurse in California. School nurses often cover multiple schools. This high ratio prohibits school nurses from being able to meet the needs of students with diabetes. As a result, schools often tell parents they must bear the responsibility for coming to school daily to provide their child with insulin or they must designate another individual, who is not a school employee, to provide the insulin in their absence. Parents who are unable to come to school daily or find another individual to do so are often advised:

- To change their child's medical management regimen so that insulin is not required at school thereby placing the child at increased risk for long-term complications as well as increasing the risk for hyperglycemia which has been demonstrated to impair cognitive ability and academic performance.
- To transfer their child to a non-neighborhood school which may have a full-time school nurse.
- That their child will not be allowed to attend field trips or other school sponsored activities unless a parent or parent designee can attend.

Senate Bill 1487

Senate Bill 1487 is aimed at alleviating the difficulties children with diabetes face in accessing assistance with insulin administration by allowing non-medical school personnel to volunteer to be trained to administer insulin to students with diabetes when a school nurse is not present. SB 1487 includes provisions for the development of training standards and training to ensure that school personnel who volunteer to provide assistance to students with diabetes are adequately trained to do so.

Several states have enacted laws to allow non-medical personnel to volunteer to be trained to administer insulin including Virginia, Indiana, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Washington. A study, published in the medical journal, *Diabetes Care*, in 2007 found that students with type 1 diabetes can be cared for safely by a variety of trained medical and non-medical personnel in the school setting.

Current Status & Action Needed:

Senate Bill 1487 was introduced on February 21, 2008. All Diabetes Advocates are encouraged to send letters of support to the bill's author, Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod at: State Capitol, Room 2059, Sacramento, CA 95814. For more information, contact Lisa Murdock at (800) 676-4065 ext. 7415 or at lmurdock@diabetes.org