

MATT SMITH, MEMBER
42ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
323 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202042
HARRISBURG PA 17120-2042
(717) 783-1850
FAX: (717) 780-4756



319 CASTLE SHANNON BOULEVARD
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15234
(412) 571-2169
FAX: (412) 571-2000

EMAIL: mhsmith@pahouse.net
WEB SITE: www.pahouse.com/msmith

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Matt Smith

DATE: December 21, 2010

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation – Re-introduction of HB 1113 of 2009 - Training of School Employees in Diabetes Care and Treatment

In the near future, I will be reintroducing legislation that will amend the Public School Code to require the training of school employees in diabetes care and treatment as well as allowing for the possession and self-administration of diabetes medication by students. This legislation is fundamentally identical to HB 1113 introduced last session.

As many of you are painfully aware, diabetes is a chronic disease marked by high levels of sugar in the blood. Individuals suffering from the disease are at greater risk to develop heart disease, high blood pressure, blindness, kidney disease, and neuropathy. More than 20 million men, women, and children, or approximately 7.8% of the population, suffer from diabetes in this country alone. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 200,000 people under the age of twenty have diabetes, with roughly 15,000 children diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes and about 3,700 children diagnosed with Type II diabetes annually in the United States.

My legislation would call for the training of at least three school employees per building regarding the recognition of hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia, the administration of glucagon and insulin, and recognizing complications that require immediate emergency assistance. Additionally, school boards would be required to develop a written policy allowing diabetic students to possess on their person at all times all necessary supplies, equipment, and prescribed medication to perform self-monitoring and treatment pursuant to the child's diabetes medical management plan as submitted by the student's parents and physician.

When a child goes into diabetic shock, every second is crucial. My legislation would equip school personnel with the necessary knowledge to respond to this type of medical emergency. It is my sincere hope that you will join me in this important effort.

Previous co-sponsors for former HB 1113 included: BRENNAN, BRIGGS, CALTAGIRONE, FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, GEORGE, HARHAI, HARPER, HENNESSEY, KORTZ, MANN, MCGEEHAN, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MOUL, M. O'BRIEN, READSHAW, SAINATO, K. SMITH, AND YOUNGBLOOD.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Jamie Fetter at 717-783-1850 or jfetter@pahouse.net.