

# Coalition for Safe Health Care Management of School Children



## Oppose the "Care of Students with Diabetes Act"

Advocates for this proposal say it is to assure students with Diabetes receive timely and quality care in the absence of a full-time school nurse assigned to the school. In reality, it is a legalization of an unlicensed pseudo healthcare professional to manage, exercise independent judgment, and administer medication, specifically insulin.

The proposed "delegated care aide" will already be employed by a school district, whether teacher, teacher assistant, janitor or secretary, and would add "delegated care aide" duties in combination with their full time job.

Our Coalition has some grave concerns about portions of this bill, and recognizes systems to optimize the care for all school children with chronic diseases. The Coalition agrees that clear communication and access are critical:

- Individual Diabetic Care Plans, authorizing specific treatment guidelines customized for each student signed by the parent, guardian, and authorized by the child's healthcare provider.
- Instruction of all school staff on key provisions in caring for any child with Diabetes, in order to recognize signs of sugar imbalance.
- Parental relationships with a school employee who agrees to oversee specific, personalized care plans for their child.
- Self-administration of Insulin for children so authorized to do so with full authority to carry whatever equipment necessary to provide self-care.

The Coalition absolutely **opposes the following language in HB 6065 and SB 3822:**

- Volunteer school employees who agree to the oversight of a child with Diabetes to be empowered to do assessments, make critical decisions, and ultimately calculate and administer Insulin.
  - Education on Diabetic care is basic at best.
  - Schools may move to replace school nurses with such volunteers as a cost saving measure without regard for the overall public safety of children while at school.
  - This does not solve the problem. To date there is no data to show just how many students will utilize this type of care. Most parents do not even know about this legislative proposal. Nor do we know how many schools desire this type of provider and the liability that accompanies this proposal.

Although our Coalition is aware that there could be a need to assist a child with Diabetes in maintaining a treatment regime, this is not the safest, most efficient method. The safest option would be to have a licensed nurse in every school.

**We respectfully ask for a "NO" vote on HB 6065 – SB 3822.**

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| ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES             |  |
| ILLINOIS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION                    |  |
| ILLINOIS ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS             |  |
| AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS - ILLINOIS CHAPTER |  |
| ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS        |  |
| ILLINOIS AFL-CIO                                  |  |
| ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF TEACHERS                   |  |
| CAMPAIGN FOR BETTER HEALTH CARE                   |  |
| CHICAGO TEACHERS UNION                            |  |
| ILLINOIS FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION                  |  |