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Testimony in Support of House Concurrent Resolution 14
Going before the House Committee on Healthcare
February 13, 2015

I support the resolution currently before the committee, which would designate March 26, 2015 as Purple Day in Oregon, in support of expanding awareness of epilepsy in our state. Epilepsy is said to be when a person has two or more seizures. Now research is showing that even when a person has only had 1 seizure it can be epilepsy and has become much more complex.

My daughter, who is with me today has been living with epilepsy for 10+ years and when diagnosed had 1.2 seizures every minute, which resulted in her missing/blanking out for 3-30 seconds out of every minute. On December 25, 2011 she had a 13 minute Grand Mal Tonic Clonic seizure that resulted in a full day in the emergency room and diagnosed with yet another type of seizure. This took us on the long journey to where we are today. Kaitlyn continues to have seizures and due to the significance and the type is at a very high risk of SUDEP (Sudden Unexplained Death of Epilepsy). She also never knows when a seizure is coming on and therefore is at risk due to falling and injuring herself. We take as many precautions as we can, although I believe that designating a day specifically for epilepsy that it will bring a much great awareness to others and lessen fear around seizures.

We were very fortunate to have found the Epilepsy Foundation Northwest in our beginning journey with this horrible disease and have been very involved ever since. We are involved in many events and bringing awareness to Oregon and communities as well as into the schools. It's through events such as Purple Day that would help to provide this even more. I believe that through awareness and education that we can bring more support to those living with epilepsy and their caregivers.

Thank you for considering this important piece of legislation, and recognizing what it means for those that are effected