

Dear Senators of the Education Committee,

Kirsten Norgaard and I are co-founders of Adrenal Insufficiency United (AIU) and the parents of amazing children. Each of us has one child affected by adrenal insufficiency and we are filled with hope. Hope that you will move SB875 onto the Senate floor for a vote. You see, we must live with the fear that one day our children will need an injection to save their lives and that we will not be there to give it to them. They could DIE without this injection. We know personally of children and adults who have DIED because they didn't receive this injection.

I am a teacher and have worked in schools for 15 years. I am trained to use an epi-pen and to give a glucagon injection. I would use either of these in a heartbeat if it meant saving the lives of one of my students. The lack of school nurses in our districts makes allowing school staff to give this injection imperative. A child having an allergic reaction or low blood sugar episode can die, so can a child with AI who is experiencing an adrenal crisis. Since 33% percent of crisis events happen outside of the home and children spend 6+ hours in school a day the possibility exists in our schools.

Our organization has heard from parents who have children with AI. Schools have refused to train staff to inject, children have been banned from attending field trips, parents have been told to move their children to other schools. Even simple things like having snacks and electrolyte replacement drinks available is a struggle. Why?? Not because the schools don't care, but because they don't understand that AI can be deadly or that they do know how deadly it can be and feel ill-equipped to deal with it. SB875 will provide training and solve this problem. SB875 can save lives! Statistically 84,000 Oregonians are living with adrenal insufficiency.

Back in September AIU began work on a training for AI. This training is being developed by:

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The training will be available to any who need it free of charge, so there will be no cost incurred by the State of Oregon to train. We expect the training to be completed by the end of this month. It is geared toward health care providers. AIU will also work with school nurses to develop literature for teachers or other staff, much like the literature used to teach about diabetes and allergies.

We hope to be able to speak with you face to face about this bill. Both Kirsten and I work and will need to get time off to come to Salem so we hope that you will be able to give us some notice of when your committee will be discussing our bill. We know that one day it could save the lives of our children and will fight to get you the support you need to take this to a full Senate vote.

We are happy to provide as much information as you need and have notebooks with information ready for you.

Thank you for your time and service to the state of Oregon,

Kirsten Norgaard: President of AIU and mother to Tristan a 6 year old with AI

Jennifer Knapp: Director of AIU and mother to Aubrey a 19 year old with AI