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Subject: testimony for SB875
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To Oregon Senate Health Committee Members:

My name is Ben Klute, and I am a 23-year-old male living with Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia. This disease, contrary to popular belief, has not crippled me in any way. In fact, it has been a blessing in my life because it has given me even more of a reason to strive for things that I never thought were possible. I graduated from Occidental College in Los Angeles with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics, and, while I was attending that school, I had many life-changing events. Some of these included being away from home for the first time and not knowing how, if it were to happen, an adrenal crisis would pan out. Thankfully, I have incredibly supportive parents, and they sat down with me as well as the Dean of Occidental and the Health Team Staff to go over how an emergency situation would unravel. Serendipitously, approximately one week later, I fell off of my bunk bed in my dorm room. I hit my leg rather hard and immediately started to go into adrenal crisis. I called my dad immediately because I recognized the symptoms of the adrenal crisis, and he called the Dean who then set the chain reaction off, and thankfully, they addressed the issue rather expeditiously.

In addition to this crisis, only one year earlier, I had broken my leg while I was rehearsing for the Mr. Axeman Pageant, which was an all-senior boys show that my high school put on to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network. Being a CMN baby myself, I connected to this cause rather strongly. When I broke my leg, I went into adrenal shock immediately, and I was unable to talk or tell anyone what to do. A close friend of mine from childhood was there, and she knew exactly what had to be done. She asked me if I had my medications with me, to which I apparently responded that I did not have them on me. She immediately called my parents and told them what was going on and also called an ambulance. Unfortunately, the ambulance did not have any hydrocortisone in its vehicle, which prompted an even more potentially disastrous event. My blood pressure dropped rapidly, and my mom later told me that she wasn't sure whether or not I was going to make it, which was a practically catastrophic stressor for my parents, as I am sure you can imagine. Thankfully, though, they were able to get me to the hospital on time and I was able to get the hydrocortisone shot that I so desperately needed. I cannot tell you how many times EMTs have never heard of Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia; in fact, when I was living with my partner in Los Angeles, I had a crisis during which an ambulance had to be called. When they arrived, they didn't know what to do with my hydrocortisone shot, and proceeded to stick me with it in the wrong places. Thankfully I was lucid enough to tell them where it had to go, and that was that.

I am writing you today to urge you to pass bills SB874 and SB875. Not only will it potentially save a child's life, but it will safeguard dangerous situations like playgrounds and after-school athletics. Please take these two bills seriously as you may know someone who has a child with an Adrenal Insufficiency and not even know it.

Sincerely,
Ben Klute