

March 12, 2015

To whom it may concern:

Our son was diagnosed with Addison's Disease (Primary Adrenal Insufficiency) at age 6. He has had 2 crises and hospitalized several times in critical care. In elementary school, he had a 504 plan. He went to a private school for middle school. He is a freshman now and goes to a public high school.

This year we had to fight so hard for the school to allow him to have his meds on him at all times. They were only allowing him to keep meds in the office with the nurse. We are fine with that except that he didn't have meds as he was driven to school, he wouldn't be allowed to carry his meds to wrestling practice after school or even at extracurricular activities. And one of our biggest concerns was how would he get to his meds if there was a school shooting or emergency and the school was in a lock down.

We had to have 4 meetings to get what we wanted and that included having our Endocrinologist come to a meeting to explain her concerns about him not having his meds on him at all times. So now he has his meds on him at all times, but only the administrators are allowed to know this information. No teachers, friends, are allowed to know. So how does that help him if he is not able to tell someone that his meds are in his back pack in an emergency situation. Also, there is not a full time nurse at his school, so if she is not there no one can give him the shot if he needs it.

Thankfully, the last two years we have campaigned for protocols and meds to be put in place in our city and county. And they did get this put in place. It was hard work and took a lot of time. But it was worth it for our child and others with AI. So now at least emergency personnel can give him what he needs. But it will still take time for them to get to his school.

We are very concerned at how public schools are willing to let diabetics and other types of illnesses have rights, but not our children with AI.

Our children need to be protected the same as any other child with a life threatening illness. We are willing do what it takes to have every city and county in the country to get these protocols in place!

Sincerely,

Andy and Lora Joy Adzima
Knoxville, TN