

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson and members of the health committee I am writing in support of SB874.

I went into a crisis in January 2010. I was home alone and called my sister who is a nurse. She could tell by the confused way I was talking that I needed to go to the hospital. I was able to call 911, but when I told the 911 operator that I had secondary Adrenal Insufficiency her response was "you have what?"

By the time the squad got to me I was confused and was having severe tremors. They suspected that I was having an allergic reaction to something so they gave me a big dose of Benadryl. I was trying to tell them I needed my shot from my purse and they ignored me telling me the ER would take care of me. We got to the hospital, but due to my confusion and irregular heart rate they assumed that I was having a stroke or heart attack. I knew it was only a matter of time before I would die if they didn't give me the IV Steroids.

My sister arrived shortly after and went to talk to the Dr. on call to find out why they hadn't given me my steroid shot. She said they were waiting for my blood work to come back. Waiting?? I didn't have time to wait. My sister immediately called my endocrinologist and got the instructions on what this Dr needed to do for me.

I ended up with three IV steroid shots in a course of five hours before they could get me stabilized. I was in the hospital for four days. When they took me to my room all the nurses on duty that day, about 6 of them, came into my room together and ask me what signs they needed to look for in the event I would go into another crisis. It was very scary to think I had professional people taking care of me and no one knew anything about an Adrenal Crisis.

Barb Snapp age 62