

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 28, 2006      LB 1107

a student's self-management of their diabetic condition. And I would just like to conclude with a parent's statement that was at the hearing, and why this is so important to families when they help their children deal with this disease. And this is what this dad said: I love my youngest son. I want him to have a full life. Heart disease is the number one cause of death for diabetics when they get older. I would love to be able to see, when I'm an older gentleman, that my son has all of his fingers, all of his toes, his arms, his legs, his eyesight, no kidney problems, no liver problems, and that he has a family of his own. And that's why I'm pursuing this and trying to do the best I can as a parent. We heard from a lot of parents. This is a tough disease to have a child encounter. And they teach their children to be able to manage this in all other aspects of their life, whether they're at the mall or church or an outing, whether they're at a...some kind of sport that's a community thing. They take care of their own management of this disease. And what this bill would do would allow that same process for these children to happen when they're at school. They are the best person to be managing their own disease. They know their conditions, they know when they're falling, they know when they need to test, and they know that they need to act quickly. I think this is a reasonable accommodation. In the course of this bill, we contacted schools and others ahead of the introduction of the bill. And as a lot of bills happen, some better suggestions came, and we worked those out with school nurses and others as the bill went forward. I think what this does, and the bill that follows that Senator Cornett will be talking about, is recognize that medicine has changed. The way we administer insulin has changed. Most of the kids are on pumps. All they carry is a little packet like this for the testing. This is something that's very natural to them. And for those students who want to be able to take care of their own condition, this would allow them to do it. Not every student is going to want to do this. Maybe they prefer to go to the office. Maybe they prefer to be with a school nurse. But a lot of schools don't have that kind of personnel. And so we want to be able to have families and schools sit down and work out the best plan for these children, so that like their dad...this one dad said, that they can grow up and be as healthy as they can be with this disease, live to a ripe old age, have all their