

HB 5667  
March 3, 2008

Chairman Handley, Chairman Sayers, and members of the Public Health Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 5667.

Good Morning Ladies and Gentleman, my name is Sedrick Trotman. I am 14 years old and live in Meriden. I am a freshman at H.C. Wilcox Technical School. On May 20, 2000 I was diagnosed with diabetes, three weeks before my seventh birthday.

While in the third grade, my endocrinologist suggested that I go on an insulin pump. My insulin pump continuously delivers insulin through a tiny catheter, which is inserted under my skin. My pump is programmed to deliver insulin based on how many carbohydrates I eat.

When I was in third grade, I had a wonderful school nurse. She attended the pump trainings along with my family, as I would be her first student going on an insulin pump. We set up a system where by I had to see her multiple times during the day. The first trip to her office would be at mid morning snack time, then before lunch, then two hours after lunch and lastly before I got on the school bus. As you can see, she had to assist me with my pump at least four times during a normal school day. This was four times I had to leave my class each and every day. At this school, she was the only nurse. This was a good and a bad thing. The good thing was, she knew my pump inside and out, the bad thing was when she wasn't there replacement nurses were not as prepared as she was. Had there been more staff trained in the operation of my pump, the replacement nurses could have had some back up.

When I moved on to middle school, I had two school nurses. Both of them were well trained on my pump by my parents. They were however the only two people in the school that knew how my pump worked and how to operate it. Again, I had to visit them mid morning, before lunch, two hours after lunch and before I got on the bus. In middle school, missing time from classes had more consequences than in elementary school. Since I switched classes all day, I would end up missing the last 10 to 15 minutes of four classes each day. I was permitted to do finger checks in class but if I needed to take a bolus, the nurse had to oversee that, which meant I would have to leave class, go see her then return to class. Looking back now, I really think that was the most ridiculous running around I ever had to do. I missed so much time from class doing this running around as the nurse and my classes were in two different parts of the school. Since I usually went at the end of classes, I also missed quite a few homework assignments that were given out during those last few minutes.

During middle school, whenever there were planned field trips, one of the school nurses had to attend, since they were the only two people who could oversee

operation of the pump. I was the only kid who always had the nurse as the chaperone. Believe me, this was not a cool thing especially on your 8<sup>th</sup> Grade end of the year field trip.

Now I am in high school. What a different world it is now. There is one school nurse who pushes me to be as independent as I possibly can be. I know she is there if I need her but I very rarely see her. I can check my number in my classes and take my own boluses. If my blood sugar readings are too high or too low, I go see the nurse.

My school nurse however is still the only person who knows how to operate my pump. I still find this to be ridiculous. You see, in my opinion, I think there should be a few other staff members that know how my pump operates. One person might be the gym teacher, since we do excessive physical activity in that class, and we all know how exercise effects ones blood sugar levels. Since I attend a Technical School, another person might be my shop teacher, since my shop is in a different building, it would be reassuring to know that if something goes wrong my teacher could act accordingly.

I am asking that you consider HB 5667. This new legislation will allow my school nurse to train other individuals in my school on the operation of my pump, thus allowing my diabetes needs to be responded to in a timelier manner. As you consider voting for HB 5667, please keep in mind my safety. I am not only speaking for myself but for those who were not able to make it here today to speak for themselves. I just want to be as safe and healthy as my fellow students.

Thank you,