

March 11, 2011

To: Public Health Committee

Re: SB 1144 AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR STUDENTS WHO REQUIRE TUBE FEEDINGS

Good morning Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Senator Welch, Representative Perillo and members of the Public Health Committee.

I am submitting this written testimony in support of SB 1144. Although I am not a parent of child who requires tube feeding, I am the mother of a 23-year-old son who has special medical health care needs.

Families routinely administer tube feeding to their children every day under the supervision of medical personnel. I think restricting the administration of tube feeding in a school to only the school nurse is a mistake and possible could mean children who are tube feed not attend their neighborhood school with their peers if a school nurse is not assigned to that school full time. This would be a grave injustice. Families routinely provide complex medical procedures on a daily basis for their family members all the time in order for that family member to reside in their home across the lifespan. In fact, this happens all the time as visiting nurses provide training to family members so the person receiving the tube feeding can live in their own home. People with disabilities hire personal care assistants under the PCA waiver and train them themselves to complete complex medical and personal care. PCA's may or may not have special medical training.

I would agree that perhaps language could be inserted that the school nurse should provide supervision and training for non-licensed assistive personnel to administer the tube feeding. Other than that, I would urge you to support SB 1144 in the interest of not having any barriers for children with special healthcare needs to attend their neighborhood school with their peers.

Thank you,

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