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Testimony in opposition to:

HB 5299: AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZING THE USE OF ANTIPILEPTIC MEDICATIONS IN SCHOOLS

Diastat (Diazepam) is a medication that is often prescribed for emergency use in the school setting.

Only an RN trained in BLS for Healthcare Providers (CPR and AED) can administer Diastat in the school setting. The student must be immediately transported to the ER after Diastat is given.

Please be aware that **Paramedics and EMTs (both required to be certified in CPR and have months of extensive training) are not allowed to administer Diastat.** They are only allowed to transport the student after the RN has properly administered the Diastat.

Diastat is given rectally. The nurse must prepare the proper dosage prescribed and make sure the medication is retained in the cavity. The student's heart rate, respiration, blood pressure and mentation must be monitored.

After having a seizure, the patient often goes into what is called a postictal phase (somnolent, drowsy and lethargic).

Because of the additional risk of sedation from the Diastat, they must be monitored for respiratory depression and an Ambu-bag must be on site to assist with breathing if needed. They must also be monitored for vomiting and the possible need for suctioning to prevent aspiration.

The administration of antiepileptic medications should not be delegated to unlicensed staff in the school setting.

Thank you. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Lane Newman, RN