

Written Testimony of

Jane M. Ross

Grandmother of Emmett Frederick Ross

Bethesda, MD

March 9, 2013

Public Health Committee

As grandmother of Emmett Ross, in her mid 80's, I wish to write in favor of the passage of Proposed Bill No. 5299. I hope you will pass the legislation to authorize unlicensed persons to administer the life-saving Diastat to my grandson when he suffers an epileptic seizure.

He must take a bus to and from school, a round-trip from Westport and Trumbull. There is no qualified school nurse present during his bus travel. But there is an attendant always with him. I want to ask that the bus attendant be trained, in lieu of the nurse, to administer the Diastat in the event that Emmett suffers a seizure while on the bus. The training can be done quickly and efficiently and given to caretakers who are not qualified school nurses.

My son Jim trained me in the procedure in less than 5 minutes, and during seizures I have administered the Diastat to Emmett. I have been able to stop seizures as Emmett begins to experience one.

I have saved my grandson's life by intervention with the Diastat. Were the seizure not stopped, my beloved grandson would die.

I have the greatest respect for school nurses and the wonderful care they give our children. But when they are not present to help Emmett, it seems most appropriate that a trained attendant be able to give Emmett the chance of life.

For so we value each and every child, no matter the situation, that when needed the child be given the chance to live through the epileptic seizure.

Sincerely,

Jane M. Ross