

Testimony for HB 5303

As a practicing neurologist, I know that seizures can be life-threatening. Much like stroke, when dealing with epilepsy we teach our medical students that “time is brain”. That is, the sooner a seizure is terminated, the more likely the individual is to not suffer serious harm. Conversely, prolonged seizures called “status epilepticus” are associated with a 30% mortality (death rate), which is higher than that associated with a heart attack.

It is for this reason that I strongly support HB 5303. This bill allows parents/guardians to permit non-medical school personnel like teachers, coaches and paraprofessionals to administer emergency anti-epileptic medication when a nurse is not immediately available and as part of a children's individual emergency care plan. As a brain specialist I believe this makes a tremendous amount of sense, with almost no down side. From a medical and patient care standpoint, I can see no substantial reason why this common sense piece of legislation should not be swiftly enacted.

Yours most sincerely,

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