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Bill: Senate Bill 71
Title: Public and Nonpublic Schools – Student Diabetes Management Program
Committee: Senate Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
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Position: OPPOSE
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Senate Bill 71 requires the State Department of Education and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with specified other organizations, to establish specified guidelines for the training of trained diabetes care providers; provides for the content of the guidelines; requires each county board of education to require specified public schools to establish a Student Diabetes Management Program in the school; and provides that specified nonpublic schools may establish a Student Diabetes Management Program in the school.

PSSAM opposes Senate Bill 71. Advancing and ever-changing diabetes technology and management regimes have changed the way students manage their diabetes at school. Students are monitoring their blood glucose levels several times a day, calculating carbohydrate content of meals, calculating and dosing insulin via syringe, pen and pump to achieve blood glucose levels within a specified target range. Not only does diabetes management in children and adolescents require complex daily management skills, but each student's diabetes disease process, developmental and intellectual ability and level of assistance needed is unique.

The impact of Senate Bill 71 could have serious consequences on the management of students with diabetes in the school setting. There are numerous factors that impact diabetes management, such as normal growth and development, various degrees of dependence and independence with self-management skills, exercise/sports, illness, and multiple insulin delivery systems. Managing diabetes is complex and fluid each day. This type of disease management requires the knowledge, skill, and judgment of a nurse to ensure the student's wellbeing. Using a school volunteer with minimal knowledge, training, and experience is not an appropriate option to manage a complex disease process as diabetes.

A volunteer, not caring for the student on a consistent basis, could lead to poorly controlled diabetes and fluctuating blood glucose levels, which not only affect academic performance, but can lead to long-term complications such as retinopathy, cardiovascular disease, and nephropathy. Maintaining blood glucose levels within a target range can prevent, reduce, and reverse long-term complications of diabetes.

For the concerns and reasons listed above, PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 71 and urges an unfavorable committee report.