

COSPONSOR MEMO #26

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Jane C. Orie

DATE: March 2, 2009

SUBJECT: Diabetes Management in Schools

I will soon be reintroducing **SB 509**, which would amend the School Code by providing for the management of diabetes while students are in school or at school-related activities.

Diabetes is a serious, chronic disease that impairs the body's ability to use food. It must be managed 24-hours a day in order to avoid the potentially life-threatening short-term consequences of blood sugar levels that are either too high or too low. In managing the disease, students with diabetes must have access to the means to balance food, medications, and physical activity level while at school and at school-related activities.

This bill would require the Department of Education to develop guidelines for the training of school employees in diabetes care and treatment; provide that certain school employees be trained; ensure that school entities adopt policies that include allowing students with diabetes to self-carry/medicate and having at least one trained diabetes personnel on site/available during school and after school hours; and require students -- when enrolled or diagnosed -- submit a diabetes medical management plan if they are seeking care.

SB 509 was cosponsored by Senators Boscola, Browne, Costa, Dinniman, Erickson, Fontana, Kitchen, Logan, O'Pake, Rafferty, Stack, Stout, Washington, M. White, and Wozniak.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Lynda James at 787-6538 or by email at ljames@pasen.gov.

JCO/ns