Erin Hawkins

85 Burgess Ave

Westwood MA, 02090

My name is Erin Hawkins and I am writing in support of this amendment. This past October, my eight-year-old daughter Aria was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes and is at risk of a severe hypoglycemia (severe low blood sugar). It is a life-threatening situation. She has an active prescription for Baqsimi, a rescue medication that would bring her blood sugar back up. Her Baqsimi is essential in the event of hypoglycemia causing a seizure or loss of consciousness.

Aria is very lucky to attend a wonderful elementary school with a fantastic, experienced school nurse. While I know our nurse would be the ideal person to respond to severe hypoglycemia, I know she is not the only person in the school who is fully capable of responding successfully. In fact, I would trust any adult to administer Aria’s Baqsmimi because this medication is designed to be as simple as possible, with essentially zero risk of causing harm.

I hope our school never has a real lockdown, but the kids practice what to do just in case. The kids in my daughter’s class know they are supposed to silently line up against a classroom wall and hide indefinitely. There would be no access to our school nurse in that scenario, just her classroom teacher. This is just one of the potential situations where having her Baqsmimi available in the classroom could save her life. I have no doubt her teacher would want to save her life rather than doing nothing. This amendment sets the foundation for Aria to have the access and support she needs in these types of situations.

Thank you for considering Aria and the many kids in Massachusetts like her who deserve to be as safe at school as every other student.