Dear Commissioner Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD and Member of the Public Health Council,

I am the parent of a seven-year-old child with Type 1 diabetes (T1D) who requires constant monitoring of his blood glucose levels throughout the school day. As a concerned parent, I am deeply worried about the safety of my child under the current legal framework surrounding the administration of glucagon in public school settings.

While our school has a nurse on duty during the day, there are significant gaps in the emergency protocols as they relate to life-threatening situations, such as severe hypoglycemia, when glucagon may need to be administered immediately. Given the nature of my son's condition, his blood glucose levels can fluctuate unexpectedly, and during certain emergencies, glucagon must be administered quickly to prevent severe health consequences, including seizures, brain damage, or even death. However, under current state law, only a licensed school nurse is authorized to administer glucagon, and if my son were in a lockdown situation or away from the nurse, no other staff member could legally step in to help, even in a life-threatening scenario.

This presents a serious risk to the well-being of my child and others with similar medical conditions in the school system. In situations where immediate intervention is critical, waiting for the nurse to be physically available or attempting to secure assistance in a lockdown scenario could be the difference between life and death.

It is crucial that we revise the laws and policies to allow trained school personnel—such as teachers, administrators, or other staff members who have received proper training on how to recognize the signs of a diabetic emergency and administer glucagon—permission to act quickly in these types of situations. This would significantly increase the safety of my child and others in similar situations, providing peace of mind for all parents who entrust their children to the care of public schools.

I urge lawmakers and school administrators to recognize the importance of this issue and work to amend the current laws, allowing for appropriate, life-saving measures to be taken by trained, non-nursing staff during emergencies. By doing so, we can ensure that no child, including my own, is left without the critical care they need when it matters most.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn Sherburne

140 Crimson Street, Raynham, MA