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Dear Commissioner and Members of the Public Health Council,

I am the mother of a Type 1 diabetic. My daughter was diagnosed mid-way through her kindergarten year. The possibility of having a life-threatening low blood sugar is a very real part of our lives. Administration of insulin is complicated and involves many variables that are hard to get correct. If there is too much insulin in her body she can have an emergency level low blood sugar. As it stands now, should our daughter end up in a situation with no access to the nurse, and too much insulin in her system – NO ONE – can give her the emergency rescue medication. The rescue medication is a powder that sprays into the nose of the type 1 diabetic. This medication is a “do no harm” medication. That means that if you give it when it’s not needed – nothing bad happens. But if you do not give it seizures, brain damage and death can, and do occur. We never leave home without the nose spray, known widely as Baqsimi. It is in our cars, our go bag, our pockets… We NEVER leave her with anyone who doesn’t know how to use the Baqsimi – except at school. During a lockdown drill, a real lockdown, an emergency evacuation, or some unforeseen event when our daughter could be in the care of people who have not been trained – because the law will not allow it. This is truly a risk the state is taking that is unnecessary.

Can you imagine how horrible it would be to the be staff member who didn’t know how to easily treat an emergency condition, and a child died under your watch. Please make it so that this “do no harm” medication with very simple instructions can be made available to our type 1 school children.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kimberly Hess, Ph.D. 131 Bay Colony Drive Westwood, MA 02090