



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850



Bill: Senate Bill 71
Title: Public and Nonpublic Schools–Student Diabetes Management Program
Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Date: January 20, 2016
Position: **OPPOSE**
Contact: Michael Durso, President, Montgomery County Board of Education

The Montgomery County Board of Education opposes Senate Bill 71.

This bill proposes each county Board of Education require certain schools to develop a Student Diabetes Management Program that would include authorizing employees to volunteer to participate in the Program and be trained on recognizing the symptoms of diabetes and administering health care services and requiring that trained school staff members perform certain diabetes care tasks when necessary.

Specifically in Montgomery County Public Schools, we have more than 300 students with diabetes located at 120 schools (out of the 203 MCPS schools). Over 75 percent of these students had orders for Glucagon to be administered by intramuscular injection for life-threatening episodes of hypoglycemia (extremely low blood sugar) that could result in unresponsiveness and/or diabetic seizures. Almost 70 percent of these students had insulin orders. Of these students, nearly 50 young children in prekindergarten to Grade 5 were unable to calculate their insulin dosage, thus requiring daily assistance by a School Health Services (SHS) registered nurse.

Currently, the current SHS model implemented in MCPS involves an SHS registered nurse who may delegate certain tasks, as appropriate and as provided for in the *Nurse Practice Act*, to a certified nursing assistant/certified medication technician. This is a well thought-out and fully-implemented process that is safe and provides for the well-being of students with diabetes. SHS staff members, in collaboration with parents/guardians and MCPS staff members, currently address the needs of diabetic students throughout the school day. MCPS has provided an agency nurse (it is usually an LPN) to accompany a student on a field trip, if medically indicated by the school nurse.

For these reasons, we oppose this bill and ask for an unfavorable report.