

Protecting the Rights of School Children with Diabetes

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Abstract

School children with diabetes are facing increasing difficulties in receiving care during the school day. Despite the existence of federal statutes ensuring their rights to a free, appropriate public education, many school districts throughout the country do little, if anything, to ensure that their condition is treated throughout the school day. The chronic shortage of school nurses has resulted in hardships on families, relatives, and friends to ensure that care, including insulin, is timely and appropriately provided. While many states have taken measures to provide care by unlicensed trained volunteers, efforts to accomplish this in California have resulted in prolonged litigation. A variety of nursing organizations oppose all efforts to train unlicensed volunteers, arguing that such is not permitted by California law. The issue is unresolved and currently pending in the California Supreme Court.

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Abbreviations: (ADA) Americans with Disabilities Act, (FAPE) free, appropriate public education, (HHS) Department of Health and Human Services, (IDEA) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, (IEP) individualized education program, (T1DM) type 1 diabetes mellitus, (T2DM) type 2 diabetes mellitus

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