



BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

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NEWS RELEASE

Parents' Organization Supports Anaphylactic Shock Bill

BURNABY, MAY 10: The BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils has given its considerable support to a private member's Bill that ensures students with extreme allergies that make them subject to anaphylactic shock get the treatment they need at school. BCCPAC is a voluntary organization of parents of school children from across the province. Its members represent thousands of children from kindergarten to grade 12.

"This Bill could literally save a child's life," said Kim Howland, President of BCCPAC. "We want all children to be safe at school. Ensuring that school employees know how to administer treatment to a child suffering anaphylactic shock could save that child from dying while at school."

Anaphylactic shock is an extreme allergic reaction with symptoms such as trouble breathing and unconsciousness. A person experiencing it can die within minutes if they do not receive treatment. Treatment is often simple to administer if a person has the right training.

"I can only imagine how anxious parents would feel sending their children with extreme allergies to school. Anaphylactic shock can be fatal within minutes, especially without the treatment close at hand," said Howland. "This Bill would help ease that anxiety for students, parents and staff of the child's school community."

"In 2000 our members put forth a resolution to protect all children with anaphylaxis. This Bill can provide that protection."

Bill M210 requires school principals to keep an individual plan for each child with anaphylactic shock outlining his/her allergy, monitoring and avoidance strategies and appropriate treatments, including an emergency procedure for the student that can easily be accessed.

Should this bill pass, every school board would be required to establish and maintain an anaphylactic policy setting out risk reduction strategies; a means to communicate information on life-threatening allergies to students, parents and employees; and mandatory regular training on dealing with life-threatening allergies for all employees and any other people who have direct contact with students on a regular basis.

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