

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SB 161 (Huff) - REQUEST FOR VETO

Dear Governor Brown:

I am a classified school employee writing to respectfully request you to veto SB 161 (Huff), that would allow unlicensed school employees to volunteer to inject Diastat to an epileptic child in the middle of a seizure. I am strongly opposed to this bill because it risks the safety of children and puts classified school employees in a terrible situation.

SB 161 uses vulnerable children as a reason to create bad health policy that weakens current protections for children in need of critical care while at school. Currently, only appropriately licensed health care professionals can inject Diastat to epileptic students who have seizures at school, and there is a 504 plan that entitles these vulnerable students to that care. SB 161 would allow school districts to disregard the 504 process and instead recruit unlicensed "volunteers" to provide this injection to epileptic students. This means that school districts, who are trying to save money, will be allowed to ask unlicensed classified school employees to provide this invasive procedure, putting children and employees like me at risk.

This bill goes a step further. Not only does it allow unlicensed employees to inject Diastat, it also requires them to make medical assessments. These medical assessments include monitoring and recording the child's breathing, determining when a child can return to class, and staying with the child for up to four hours. Only licensed professionals and emergency personnel should be making these types of medical assessments. Doing anything else is compromising the safety of vulnerable children and putting employees in impossible situations.

SB 161 does not provide any funding for training. Schools have been cut over \$18 billion over the last several years and the first thing cut is training. The training that schools already provide for other services is insufficient if provided at all. The same will be the case for this training. This is an invasive medical procedure that is being done while a child is in the middle of a seizure by an unlicensed volunteer employee. It is simply unthinkable that no funding was provided for the training and it is only required every two years.

If school districts are given the option to ask unlicensed school employees to inject Diastat, they will take that option instead of providing licensed professionals like Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs). It is clear that unlicensed classified school employees will be asked to perform this medical procedure. As a classified school employee, I urge you to reject this harmful health policy and veto SB 161.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Address]

[City, State, Zip]