**Written Testimony on HF 972**

Gentry is an incredible little boy. Gentry just turned five. He enjoys preschool, big trucks and playing in his sandbox. Gentry also has panhypopituitarisum. When Gentry was born, his pituitary gland had not developed correctly. Because of this he is adrenal insufficient and we have to replace all of his hormones for him, including cortisol. Cortisol influences, regulates or modulates many of the changes that occur in the body in response to stress including; blood sugar, immune responses, blood pressure, central nervous system activation, as well as heart and blood vessel tone and contraction. Life cannot be sustained without cortisol.

During times of stress our body needs more cortisol. Without enough cortisol, a life-threatening event called an adrenal crisis occurs. When someone with adrenal insufficiency is sick or injured, they need more medication (cortisol). If someone is going into an adrenal crisis, is injured, vomiting or is unable to take their medication orally they need an inter muscular injection called Solucortef/Solumedrol. An adrenal crisis can quickly spiral into shock, heart failure, coma, brain damage, and death in a matter of 30 minutes from onset. In an adrenal crisis, until cortisol levels are normalized, treatments for any other issues won't be effective. Gentry wears a medical alert bracelet and we take his medications with us everywhere we go (even if it's just a couple blocks away). When he is left in someone else's care, that person MUST be trained and able to give him his medications. One of our biggest fears is getting into a car accident and being unable to speak Gentry's needs and administer his medication. Currently EMS are unable to give him his life saving medication/injection.

We live in rural Minnesota, three hours away from all of Gentry's doctors and have had many ambulance rides to the cities. Adrenal crisis cannot wait! I am asking for your support, this bill (sf1023/hf972) passing will save lives! Thank you!