

February 10, 2011

Heather & Chris Boone
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Dear Members of North Carolina Legislature:

We need to tell you what happened to our little boy, Ethan. When he was seven months old, he woke up in the middle of the night and we found him to be burning up with a fever. We were very worried and left our home in Duplin County to take him to the emergency room. We decided his condition seemed serious enough that we should drive to the large hospital in another county.

We got there and he continued to be very sick. He threw up twice and screamed violently when they tried to take his temperature. After a few hours in the ER and only seeing a doctor a few minutes, we were assured Ethan had a virus and were sent home.

We left the ER reassured by the doctor and nurses there. No one told us about all the abnormal lab values Ethan had in the ER. By the time we returned to another ER later that day, it was too late. Our son had a meningococcal infection. Because he was not given antibiotics in the first ER, his infection advanced to sepsis and as a result, he eventually had to have his arms, legs and nose amputated.

We will spend the rest of our lives helping and loving Ethan. People all over Duplin County love and adore Ethan. But that won't pay the bills or take care of the many harms to the life of our precious child. Ethan desperately needs the hospital and its doctor to take responsibility for their mistake in the ER which cost him so much.

We have been told you are considering a bill which would keep hospital ERs and their doctors from having to take responsibility for their mistakes. That just does not seem right. They have a job to do just like the rest of us. Please think about Ethan before you vote on this bill. Please do not take away the rights of people injured in hospital ERs.

Thank you.

Heather and Chris Boone







