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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 5, 2022

RE: Testimony HB384, Public and Non-Public Schools – Bronchodilator Availability and Use Policy (Bronchodilator Rescue Inhaler Law)

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

For the record, I am Delegate Regina T. Boyce testifying today on **HB384 Public and Non-Public Schools – Bronchodilator Availability and Use Policy (Bronchodilator Rescue Inhaler Law)**.

HB384 requires public schools in the state, and authorizes nonpublic schools, **to establish a policy to stock inhalers (albuterol) in schools for emergency purposes (rescue inhaler)**, requiring select school personnel to be trained to administer the inhaler in the absence of a school nurse and removes personal liability of nurse and personnel.

According to the Asthma and Allergy Network, **7.6% of Maryland Children**, have been diagnosed with asthma, **56% of children with asthma do not have an asthma plan** on file at their school, and it is reported that **19.2% of parents with asthmatic children** report that their children missed 1-2 days of school because of their asthma. Asthma is one of the leading causes of school absenteeism in the country alone. Add to those stats the number of individuals who haven't been diagnosed with asthmas and the growing shortage of school nurses, we have a risk management dilemma. In the U.S., asthma is responsible for 10 deaths a day. Given these stats and risks, states are considering stock albuterol (rescue inhalers) in policy and guidelines. Currently, **14 states** (Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Utah, and Virginia) have stock albuterol laws, and 2 states (New York and Nebraska) have stock albuterol guidelines. At the federal level, Congressman Steny Hoyer introduced and passed [HR2468](#) "**School Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act**", **December 2020**. The bill amends the Public Health Service Act to increase the preference given in awarding certain allergy and asthma related grants to states that require certain public schools to have allergy and asthma management programs. This federal act allows states to create and implement programs as needed with financial assistance.

What I've learned about Asthma is that you cannot diagnose it without first having an incident, or an asthma attack. **Unfortunately for some, an asthmatic incident or attack is the first and last sign of a respiratory condition.**

An inhaler is as important and lifesaving as an EpiPen, and Naloxone (Narcan). It must be available in our schools, and it must be added as a stock item to the lifesaving tool box for our schools and school professionals.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB384. I ask for a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Regina T. Boyce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and 'B'.

Regina T. Boyce