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MAYOR

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HB 773

February 19, 2020

TO: Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 773 – Public and Nonpublic Schools – Bronchodilator Availability and Use – Policy (Bronchodilator Rescue Inhaler Law)

POSITION: OPPOSE

Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **opposes** House Bill (HB) 773.

HB 773 seeks to assist students in respiratory distress by widening the number of persons who could utilize a bronchodilator on the student. Unfortunately, the bill raises potential scenarios where a student who has not been diagnosed with asthma or a reactive airway disease has a bronchodilator administered to relieve their symptoms.

HB 773 would allow non-medical professionals to make an important medical decision, and could create situations where students might appear to those professionals to be in respiratory distress, but who actually have normal oxygen saturation readings and are simply having a panic attack. The Guidelines for Emergency Care in Maryland Schools – which includes guidance for helping an ill or injured student when the school nurse is not available – provides direction for the issue this bill seeks to address.¹

For the above reasons, we respectfully request an **unfavorable** report on House Bill 773.

¹ Pg. 16,

http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DSFSS/SSSP/SHS/SHSGuidelines/EmergencyCareGuidelines2015_08262015.pdf. Retrieved Feb. 14, 2020.