



The Maryland State Medical Society
1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516
410.539.0872
Fax: 410.547.0915
1.800.492.1056
www.medchi.org



TO: The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
Members, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Regina Boyce

FROM: Richard A. Tabuteau
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 19, 2020

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

On behalf of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP), we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 773.

House Bill 773 requires each local board of education to establish a policy for public schools within its jurisdiction to authorize the school nurse and other school personnel to administer a bronchodilator, if available, to a student who is determined to have asthma, is experiencing asthma-related symptoms, or is perceived to be in respiratory distress, regardless of whether the student has been diagnosed with asthma or reactive airway disease; or has a prescription for a bronchodilator. Likewise, the bill authorizes each nonpublic school to establish a policy that meets the same requirements.

Over 7 million children in the United State have asthma. It is the third leading cause of hospitalization of children and is responsible for 10.5 million missed school days every year. In Maryland, the asthma prevalence among children is 9.7%, just slightly above the 9.2% prevalence rate among all children in the United States. To ensure access to life-saving medication during the school day for students, MedChi and MDAAP support House Bill 773.

For more information call:

Richard A. Tabuteau
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000