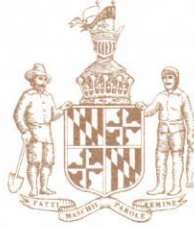


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Environment and
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 19, 2020

RE: Testimony HB 773, Public and non-Public Schools - Bronchodilator Availability and Use - Policy (Bronchodilator Rescue Inhaler Law)

Good Afternoon Ways and Means Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

For the record, I am Delegate Regina T. Boyce testifying today on **HB 773, Public and non-Public Schools - Bronchodilator Availability and Use - Policy (Bronchodilator Rescue Inhaler Law)**

HB773 requires public schools in the state, and authorizes nonpublic schools in the state, 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 Asthma and Allergy Network, **16.4% 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 reported that their children have **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 these stats the number of individuals who haven't been diagnosed with asthma 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, **10 states** (Arizona, New Hampshire, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah) have stock albuterol laws, and three states (New York, Nebraska and Indiana) have stock albuterol guidelines. At the federal level, Congressman Steny Hoyer introduced **HR 2468, "School-Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act"**, last May 2019. The bill amends the Public Health Service Act to increase the preference given, in awarding certain allergies and asthmas related grants, to States that require certain public schools to have allergies and asthma management programs.

Today, an inhaler is **as important and lifesaving as an EpiPen or Naloxone**. 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 nurse personnel.

Thank you for your time and this opportunity. I ask for a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Regina T. Boyce'.

Regina T. Boyce, Delegate