



MARYLAND SOCIETY OF
HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACY

January 11, 2024

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Committee on Education, Energy, and the
Environment
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Senator Katie Fry Hester
Deputy Majority Whip
Committee on Education, Energy, and the
Environment
Public and Nonpublic Schools - Auto-Injectable
Epinephrine and Bronchodilators - Use,
Availability, Training, and Policies

RE: Support for House Bill 86 and Senate Bill 180, Public and Nonpublic Schools - Auto-Injectable Epinephrine and Bronchodilators - Use, Availability, Training, and Policies

Dear Senator Feldman, Delegate Atterbeary, Delegate Boyce, and Senator Hester and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 86, and Senate Bill 180, Public and Nonpublic Schools - Auto-Injectable Epinephrine and Bronchodilators - Use, Availability, Training, and Policies. The Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy (MSHP) strongly supports this bill as originally drafted as it will allow schools in Maryland to provide more immediate access to medications for students with asthma or those suffering from respiratory distress.

MSHP is a health-system pharmacy organization with a mission to improve patient outcomes in the state of Maryland. House Bill 86 and Senate Bill 180 align with our goals of promoting health care equity and to ensure the safe dispensing of medications to patients in all settings. Now more than ever, MSHP is focused on advocating for mechanisms that improve access to health care across the state to deliver safe, efficient, and affordable healthcare.

House Bill 86 and Senate Bill 180 represents a simple and low-cost solution to a problem that could save children's lives and the overall cost to the health system. Thus far, 17 states across the nation have passed legislation or have administrative guidelines in place allowing schools to stock asthma medications. Albuterol is a common medication used to provide quick relief of asthma symptoms. Albuterol is safe, effective, easy to administer, and well-tolerated with minimal and mild side effects (transient increased heart rate and jitteriness). While this may or may not surprise you, 80% of children with asthma, do not have their albuterol with them in school. Many children experience their first asthma attack while in school. Without access to albuterol, a life-saving medication, vulnerable children may suffer from severe and sudden asthma attacks. We are deeply concerned about the children in the schools who require

albuterol and do not have access to it. To prevent further delays to implementing this safe, evidence-based practice in Maryland, we respectfully request your support on House Bill 86 and Senate Bill 180.

The MSHP thanks the Maryland General Assembly for their continued commitment to the health and wellbeing of the residents of Maryland and the desire to protect Maryland students. The MSHP strongly supports House Bill 86 and Senate Bill 180 as drafted and encourages swift action and favorable report to move the bill out of committee and passage by the General Assembly to protect students in schools across Maryland. We look forward to continuing to partner with you to improve the health of Maryland residents.

Sincerely,

Timothy Wu

Timothy Wu, PharmD, MBA
2023-2024 President, Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy