

**House of Delegates
Ways and Means Committee
Written Testimony for SB 180:**

**“Public and Nonpublic Schools – Bronchodilator Availability and Use – Policy
(Bronchodilator Rescue Inhaler Law).”**

Prepared by: Elaine M. Papp RN MSN COHN-S(R), CM(R) FAOHN

Chairman Atterbeary, Vice-Chairman Wilkins and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this bill. I am writing in support of the Senate Bill 180 as amended. I support both Senate bill 180 as amended and House bill 86 as amended. I look forward to seeing the final version of these two bills as reconciled.

My Name is Elaine M. Papp. I am a Master’s prepared Registered Nurse. I retired from my full-time job in 2015. In 2017, through a contracting agency, I began working as a school health nurse in Baltimore City Schools, two to three days per week. After a serious asthma emergency at a high school in Baltimore City, I began advocating to place stock albuterol inhalers (bronchodilator rescue inhalers) in all Maryland schools as emergency medication.

I spearheaded the original bill 5 years ago, and have remained an active proponent of placing emergency stock, asthma inhalers in all schools in Maryland. Asthma is the most prevalent illness in children,. It cannot be diagnosed until a child has his/her first asthma flare. Children spend a majority of their day in school. Thus, a child may well have his/her first asthma flare in the school setting. In addition, the school may be unaware of a child who is diagnosed with asthma since many parents do not provide the documentation to the school health clinic. Other students who have been diagnosed my not have their inhaler with them or it may be empty or malfunctioning. Thus, it is extremely important that school nurses be given a tool to address these situations.

In all these cases, this bill would enable the school health nurse to treat a child expeditiously without having to await the arrival of paramedics. This early treatment would prevent more serious ramifications of delayed asthma treatment.

I support the bill as amended. I believe the amendments help clarify the bill’s intent. I support the bill only if it maintains: 1) treatment of an undiagnosed child in respiratory distress who appears to be having an asthma flare and, 2) training non-medical personnel to administer an inhaler when the school nurse is unavailable.

I am extremely happy that the bill has reached this point in the legislative process and ask you to vote in favor of the bill as amended. I endorse both the amendments to the Senate bill 180 and amendments to House Bill 86.

Sincerely,

Elaine M. Papp RN MSN COHN-S (R) CM (R) FAOHN