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Education, Energy, and
Environment Committee

Chair, Joint Committee on
Cybersecurity, Information Technology
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of SB 0180- Public and Nonpublic Schools- Auto Injectable Epinephrine and Bronchodilators - Use, Availability, Training, and Policies

March 20, 2024

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of SB 0180 - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Auto Injectable Epinephrine and Bronchodilators - which will expand the law to allow nurses to administer bronchodilators, or albuterol, in schools. This bill will enable public schools to stock bronchodilators for emergency purposes, require training for identifying signs of respiratory distress and administering bronchodilators, and remove personal liability of nurses and other school personnel.

This legislation, as amended, is slightly different from Vice Chair Boyce's House Bill 86. However, both pieces of legislation passed unanimously and both address the Maryland Department of Health's concerns with the training requirements and eligible school personnel definition.

Given the differences between the two bills as amended, we are happy to conform our bill to match the House version. However, there are three key pieces EEE committee counsel recommends we amend:

1. Restore the inclusion of key stakeholders, including the American Lung Association and the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, in the training development process.
2. Remove the requirement for schools to store bronchodilators and replace it with an authorization, in order to ensure we are not including an unfunded mandate in the bill (in both public and nonpublic schools).
3. Remove the provision that authorizes county boards to obtain a standing order for the administration of bronchodilators (in both public and nonpublic schools).

Both HB86 and SB180 passed their respective chambers unanimously, so for these reasons, I would respectfully request a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Fry Hester".

Senator Katie Fry Hester
Howard and Montgomery Counties