

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Linda Chinnia
Chair, Baltimore City Board
of School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

**Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
In Support with Amendment
House Bill 609
Public and Nonpublic Schools-
Bronchodilator Availability and Use – Policy
(Bronchodilator Rescue Inhaler Law)**

February 5, 2021

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports House Bill 609 and believes this legislation is designed to save lives of students that may suffer an unexpected asthma attack.

The school board estimates that the proposed legislation would cost approximately \$15,000 annually to ensure two bronchodilators per school are present, with the understanding that these devices do expire and would need to be replaced. Students with identified risk already have a prescription and orders for administration exist in health suites.

The legislation further calls for training on recognizing signs of distress. The Baltimore City Health Department staffs health suites in Baltimore City schools i.e. they are not employees of the school system, therefore the school board cannot direct them to provide training. While the board believes this can become part of ongoing professional development, the actual training should be conducted by qualified health professionals. **Therefore, we ask for language that would require local health departments to provide professional development on recognizing distress to local schools in school systems that have a contractual arrangement to provide health services.**

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports with amendment, House Bill 609 and urges a favorable report.

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