



TO: The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
Members, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Regina T. Boyce

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 5, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 609 – *Public and Nonpublic Schools – Bronchodilator Availability and Use – Policy (Bronchodilator Rescue Inhaler Law)*

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 609.

House Bill 609 requires each local board of education to establish a policy for public schools within its jurisdiction to authorize the school nurse and other school personnel to administer a bronchodilator, if available, to a student who is determined to have asthma, is experiencing asthma-related symptoms, or is perceived to be in respiratory distress, regardless of whether the student has been diagnosed with asthma or reactive airway disease, or has a prescription for a bronchodilator. Likewise, the bill authorizes each nonpublic school to establish a policy that meets the same requirements.

Over 7 million children in the United State have asthma. It is the third leading cause of hospitalization of children and is responsible for 10.5 million missed school days every year. In Maryland, the asthma prevalence among children is 9.7%, just slightly above the 9.2% prevalence rate among all children in the United States. To ensure access to life-saving medication during the school day for students, MDAAP supports House Bill 609.

For more information call:

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