

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 266
Public and Nonpublic Schools - Bronchodilator and Epinephrine Availability
and Use – Policies**

**Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
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The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 266 as amended, which would require each county board of education to establish a policy to authorize a school nurse or other designated school staff member to administer in emergency situations a bronchodilator to a student who is experiencing asthma, reactive airway disease, or asthma-related symptoms. Such policies must authorize a school nurse to obtain and store bronchodilators, outline procedures for a school nurse to designate another school staff member to respond to asthma-related situations, and limit the administration of a bronchodilator to students with a diagnosis of asthma or related conditions. It would also require the State Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Health to jointly update asthma guidelines.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

We had serious concerns with the original version of this bill, which proposed that in cases where a school nurse was not available, non-clinical school personnel could be trained to differentiate between anaphylaxis and asthma or respiratory distress, and from there determine the appropriate treatment. As amended, this legislation instead establishes that only students should only be treated with a bronchodilator if it has been prescribed to them. The updated language better reflects clinical best



practice and no longer places an inordinate burden on non-clinician school personnel. All students and staff should be safe and healthy at school, and the policies required by this bill as amended will help protect students from the dangerous effects of asthma, anaphylaxis, and respiratory distress.

We urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on House Bill 266 as amended.