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Patrick Moran – President

**HB 86 – Public and Nonpublic Schools -Auto-Injectable Epinephrine and
Bronchodilators- Use Availability, Training, and Policies
Ways and Means Committee**

January 25, 2024

FAVORABLE

Thank you, Chair Fieldman, Madam Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB180. My name is Wendy Smith, I have been a registered nurse for 22 years. I'm also the President of AFSCME 3 Local 558 representing registered nurses who work within Baltimore City Public Schools.

As a registered nurse working within the school system, I fully support Senate Bill 180. Baltimore city has a large disproportionate number of students with chronic health conditions. Many of those students are diagnosed with asthma, as well as severe anaphylaxis to certain allergens. I believe that having a standardized quality training program that is provided by professional organizations, such as The American Lung Association and the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America makes good sense. Due to the shortage of nurses within Maryland's school districts, nurses are assigned to more than one school. Having standardized professional training for school registered nurses, makes the nurse's job easier and saves kids' lives. I also believe as we develop the training that we should solicit input from nurses to ensure the training is realistic and manageable.

I often have parents concerned about the lack in funding for additional Epi-Pens within the schools. As it stands, we are provided one Epi-Pen per school building. The one Epi-Pen provided does not consider the population within that school. It would be reassuring to parents, as well as all stakeholders who are vested in that child's safety, to have additional Epi-Pens and or bronchodilators available for use in easily accessible spaces, such as cafeterias and classrooms.

I thank the sponsors for introducing this bill and I thank the committee for their time and attention to this important matter.

I respectfully ask for your support of HB 86.

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