



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: House Bill (HB) 420 – Education and Health - Emergency Use Epinephrine - Alterations – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 420 – Education and Health - Emergency Use Epinephrine - Alterations. HB 420 alters all references to “auto-injectable epinephrine” to “emergency use epinephrine” in statutes that impact school health, youth camps, child care, institutions of higher education, and naturopaths, and provides a definition for “emergency use epinephrine.”

The authorization for trained school staff to administer stock epinephrine to students experiencing anaphylaxis is a critical emergency measure when a student does not have access to their own prescribed epinephrine. In the 2023-2024 school year, Maryland public schools reported 32,000 students with life-threatening allergies/anaphylaxis who could potentially require administration of stock epinephrine. Within that same year, it was reported that stock auto-injectable epinephrine—the only form allowable by law—was administered 69 times.

The Department supports altering the term “auto-injectable epinephrine” to “emergency use epinephrine” as defined in HB 420. This change will allow school staff to stock and administer alternative epinephrine delivery systems for use in an emergency. Auto-injectable epinephrine requires a needle for medication delivery, and fear of needles is one of the factors associated with underuse of this potentially life-saving medication.<sup>1</sup> The use of FDA-approved non-needle epinephrine delivery systems such as intranasal epinephrine has the potential to increase student and school staff comfort with emergency epinephrine administration, which could be life-saving for students experiencing anaphylaxis.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

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<sup>1</sup> Lieberman, J. et al. (2023). Innovations in the treatment of anaphylaxis: A review of recent data. *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology* 131(2), 185-193. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anai.2023.05.033>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Herrera Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary