

**HB0117 (SB0219): Public Schools - Airway Clearing Device Availability and Use - Policy (Bowen Levy Airway Clearing Device Act): Please VOTE IN SUPPORT** of this bill.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I write today in **strong and heartfelt support of HB 0117 / SB 0219 — the Bowen Levy Airway Clearing Device Act.**

Every parent, grandparent, and caregiver sends a child to school each day trusting that they will be safe. We assume that if something goes wrong — if a child suddenly can't breathe — the adults around them will have the tools they need to help. Tragically, that is not always the case.

Choking emergencies are silent, fast, and terrifying. In those moments, seconds matter. A teacher or staff member may know something is wrong, may be desperate to help, but may lack the proper equipment to save a life before emergency responders arrive. No family should ever have to live with the question, *"What if the right tool had been there?"*

The **Bowen Levy Airway Clearing Device Act** is about giving schools **one simple, lifesaving option** — and giving staff the training and confidence to use it. This bill does not replace existing emergency procedures; it strengthens them. It acknowledges a painful reality while offering a practical, compassionate solution.

This legislation honors the memory of a child by working to ensure that fewer families experience unimaginable loss. It is thoughtful, preventative, and rooted in care for our students and the people entrusted with their safety.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge all of you on both committees to **ISSUE A FAVORABLE VOTE on HB 0117 /SB 0219**. Lives truly may depend on it.

Thank you for your time, your attention, and your commitment to protecting Maryland's children.

Sincerely,  
Trudy Tibbals