



## TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB2086 SCHOOL EMERGENCY MEDICINE LEGISLATION

January 21, 2021

Chairman Huebert and Members of the House Committee,

The Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) represents more than 400 of the practicing pediatricians in the state. The KAAP has the fundamental goal that all children and adolescents in Kansas have the opportunity to grow safe and strong. It is with this goal in mind that we want to share our support of the proposed emergency medicine legislation that allows schools to stock albuterol and epinephrine for emergency use.

Kansas children spend a significant amount of time in school buildings, and it is important those buildings are equipped to manage common health life threatening situations. The AAP policy statement [Guidance for the Administration of Medication in Schools](#) states: “Schools also need an adequate supply of emergency medications in the event of a school lock-down or evacuation. Parent-supplied extra medication and/or school-supplied stock medications (including but not limited to auto injectable epinephrine and albuterol inhalers) are among the emergency or urgent care medications that need to be available in these circumstances.”

In Kansas, children are already permitted to carry personal inhalers, but access to emergency inhalers may be as low as 14%. If stocked in schools, every child could have access when they need albuterol or epinephrine for an emergency. There are many reasons why a child might not have an inhaler at school: they forgot it, they could not afford it, they unexpectedly ran out, or it might have expired.

Currently, schools have few options to assist students when they are in need of life saving epinephrine or albuterol. A parent may not be immediately accessible or able to respond promptly. Even if they can, the attack often worsens with delays. Generally, the school must call 911. This may lead to an ambulance transport and an emergency department visit; furthermore, such events take children out of the classroom and impede their learning. These adverse events are likely avoidable with stock inhalers and epinephrine.

Thank you for your time and consideration for passing this legislation that will allow schools to be prepared for emergencies with stock epinephrine and albuterol.

Respectfully submitted,

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