

Testimony in support of:

HB2086: Epi and Albuterol

Submitted by:

Beth Hought

16300 W. Briarwood Ct

Olathe, KS. 66062

Dear Rep. Steve Huebert and members of the Education Committee,

My name is Beth Hought and I live in Olathe, KS.

I am a school nurse in Olathe, KS.

Please consider supporting the proposed legislation regarding stocking Albuterol and Epinephrine in the schools for emergency situations.

Problem:

1. We need new legislation that decreases the barriers to stocking epinephrine at schools. Epinephrine is the first-line treatment for anaphylaxis, a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reactions
2. We need to be able to stock Albuterol at schools for respiratory emergencies related to asthma symptoms.

I strongly believe that we need to have both Epinephrine and Albuterol in our school buildings. There have been times that I believe I would not have had to call 911 if I had an albuterol inhaler and or Epinephrine for some of my students. My school is an at risk school and many of my families cannot afford inhalers, especially if they need one at home and one at school. It is frightening when an asthmatic is having an attack and I do not have an inhaler at school to give to him. It is so much more expensive to call 911 then it is to have stock albuterol here. One day it could cost a life because we all know that asthmatics can decline quickly and not make it. What a tragedy that a stock albuterol inhaler is not allowed at school. It can definitely save a life. Olathe does have stock epinephrine and I am so thankful. If we didn't I would have lost a staff member. Upon arrival to our school, the MedAct unit was preparing to intubate her and the epinephrine had just started to work. She required a 2nd dose before they could transport her to the hospital. Please help us save lives at our schools.

Solution:

1. We need to **allow** Albuterol to be **stocked** and used in schools for emergencies.
2. We need new wording in our legislation that gets rid of the barriers Kansas Schools face when trying to get Epinephrine in their buildings. We can do that with this new language that aligns with the other 48 states who allow Epinephrine.
3. We need to expand wording that allows it to be given to visitors on school property.

4. Expand liability exclusion for schools

I urge you to support the proposed Albuterol and Epinephrine legislation

Thank you for your consideration.

Beth Hought