

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

HB2086 Authorizing schools to maintain emergency medication

Representative Huebert and Members of the House Education Committee,

I am a retired Kansas school nurse, and retired director of health services from Olathe Public Schools, initially employed as a school nurse in 1991, and then assuming the role of Director of Health Services from January of 1995 through July of 2017. In addition, I have served on the board of the Kansas School Nurses Organization, Inc. since 1995, primarily serving in the role of Professional Standards Chair, but more recently serving as Data Chair. In retirement, I continue as the editor for the *NASN School Nurse*, the clinical resource journal of the National Association of School Nurses.

I am writing in support of HB206, the stock epinephrine and albuterol legislation for Kansas schools. The prevalence of students and staff with severe allergies and asthma speak to the importance of this life-saving legislation.

This revised legislation greatly improves upon our current legislation in several ways:

1. Adds the emergency medication of albuterol for severe respiratory distress,
2. Eases regulations for obtaining stock epinephrine by removing the "consulting pharmacist" and removing the request for the state board of pharmacy to adopt rules and regulations which have been major concerns with the current legislation, and
3. Adds the requirement for schools to establish policies and procedures (sample policies are readily available to schools through national associations and organizations) while maintaining that having stock is an OPTION for schools, not a MANDATE.

In my time as a Director of Health Services, once allowed by Kansas law, epinephrine was administered a minimum of two times per year and sometimes more than 10 times per year, and I am certain that lives were saved from its immediate availability on school premises.

Thank you in advance for your support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Cynthia A. Galemore, MEd, BSN, RN, NCSN, FNASN

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