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HB2086 School Emergency Medicine Legislation
Presented to the House Education Committee
Thursday, January 21, 2020

By
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Kansas State Board of Education

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

In 2009, the legislation allowing Epinephrine kits in Kansas schools was enacted. The legislation ensured that Epinephrine could be used by students or staff members exhibiting the signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction. School nurses are the staff members who serve students in need of health care while in the school setting. It is a must that such individuals be equipped with supplies to deal with the most common life-threatening events. The availability of emergency devices, such as automated external defibrillators and emergency medications, such as naloxone, are increasingly common in schools. They save lives and fill in the gap between the time an emergency health situation is recognized, emergency help is called and it arrives.

We know that seconds count when an individual is displaying the symptoms of a severe allergic reaction or is experiencing respiratory distress. Access to evidence-based, life-saving equipment and medications are a necessity for Kansas schools. [Stock epinephrine, albuterol and naloxone are three medications which are included in that which is needed by schools.]

Data indicates that asthma is the top reason for missed school days and over half of children who have asthma have had one or more asthma attacks in the past year. Controlling asthma by allowing schools to stock albuterol in schools is listed by the CDC as being an important strategy. Revising the stock epinephrine statute to allow the stock albuterol would help satisfy the need to ensure that schools can be prepared for life-threatening events.

The Kansas State Board of Education supports the revised legislation which corrects the original epi kit language by including the word "stock"; adds albuterol to those stock medications allowed at Kansas Schools; aligns the role of the pharmacist with that in other states, including adding liability exclusion language; expands the school liability exclusion; adds other individuals, other than staff and students, so they can receive the stock medication at school, on school property or at a school-sponsored event; and requires schools who stock epinephrine and/or albuterol to establish related policies and procedures.

Thank you for your consideration of this needed piece of legislation.

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.