

House Bill 2086

In support of Kansas Schools to stock epinephrine and albuterol medications, and allow trained personnel to administer these medications, in good faith, during emergent situations that occur on school property.

On January 5th, 2021, the “School Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act” (HR2468) was signed into law in support of states developing allergy and asthma management programs. These programs have the support of our U.S. congressmen and women for states to develop legislation and school programs that would allow school nurses or trained staff to provide emergent medications for asthma and allergens (H.R. 2468 (116th): School-Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act, 2021).

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America supports school policies that promote access to life-saving medicines to treat students and staff who experience asthma attacks or severe allergic reactions. They also believe that States should implement policies that promote access to medicines that protect students and staff, including supplying schools with albuterol inhalers to be used in emergencies, appropriately training school personnel and addressing liability concerns for those who use this medicine in good faith.

KSNA believes that emergency preparedness and public health education are pillars to being a professional nurse. The term emergency preparedness should not be limited to its often connotated meaning of disaster preparedness, but rather, should be used in correlation with preparation for health emergencies as well. Allowing albuterol, epinephrine, and other life-saving medications to be stocked within schools for emergent events, would further promote the emergency preparedness within the profession and school, as well as bring an opportunity to educate the public on life saving measures that may be the difference between life and death.

- Access to healthcare, and the elements thereof, are a problem within many social settings. Many students, staff, or event bystanders may not have access to their own life saving medications in the event of anaphylactic or asthmatic responses. In these events, KSNA supports nurses and trained personnel to stock and administer emergent medications, in good faith, on school property or during Kansas school events.
- Other states have successfully implemented programs and legislation allowing emergency stock medications of epinephrine and albuterol to be administered by school nurses and trained personnel. Missouri, Kansas’ neighboring state, enacted epinephrine stock medications in 2006 and albuterol rescue inhalers in 2012 in their own state legislation.
 - Missouri reported having 57.3% of schools with stock medications that have physicians who coordinate these prescriptions with standing orders, while 4.7% of the school systems have a medical director in a paid position and 20.9% have an unpaid medical director to manage the dispensary methods for these medications (note: this study was based on a survey response rate of 40.2% by Missouri school nurses; 475 surveys were sent out)
 - The biggest barriers for allowing stock medications in schools were cost and or lack of someone to write the standing orders. (Emergency Medications: Policies and Practices in Missouri Schools 2018, 2018)

- The ANA's Position statement on Adolescent Health supports the development and maintenance of school health services and reimbursement for such services. (American Nurses Association Position Statement on Adolescent Health, 2000)
 - As a State Nursing Association within the ANA, KSNA fully supports this initiative. KSNA aims to support the health services of our adolescents and children by encouraging legislators to immediately act on supporting the emergent care needs of Kansas students. This includes, but is not limited to, allowing emergent stock medications to be stored and distributed by school nurses and other trained personnel on school property, to individuals needing emergency medications.

Sincerely,

Kelly Sommers, RN, BSN
Director, Kansas States Nurses Association
Kansas State Nurses Association Board of Directors