

January 30, 2024

**Written Testimony to House Health and Human Services Committee
Honorable Chair, Representative Brenda Landwehr**

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Support House Bill 2547-Authorizing schools to maintain certain emergency medication kits and to administer such medication in emergency situations.

Hearing: Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 1:30 PM Room 112-N

Honorable Chairman Landwehr and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding HB2547- Authorizing school to maintain certain emergency medication kits and to administer such medication in emergency situations. As Kansas school nurse in a Douglas County public school district for 4 years and a Johnson County public school district for the past 24 years and currently, I support this bill.

I have seen what stock epinephrine has afforded our Kansas school children from the many stories of other school nurses that were fortunate enough to have stock epinephrine. I have also been the school nurse who was able to save a life because my district and school had stock epinephrine. One day I had a fifth grader take his prescribed antibiotic tablet for strep at home before coming to school. He was transported to school by one of his parents and the ride took approximately 20 minutes. When he arrived at school and left his parent car he was having a perfectly normal school arrival morning. He went to his classroom and started his morning routines and activities without concern. After about ten minutes in the classroom he began to cough and felt a strange sensation in his mouth. This was the beginning of an unknown anaphylaxis reaction due to the 5th day of antibiotic treatment he was prescribed for his current illness. He walked to the school health room where I was a school nurse and described his symptoms. At this time, he had several more symptoms and it was clear he was having a reaction to something. Thankfully we had the epinephrine available to help alleviate the symptoms of anaphylaxis and emergency services were able to reach us in a short 3 minutes to administer lifesaving albuterol and other treatment needed.

Epinephrine along with albuterol is needed to provide prompt and safe care for those who are in need due to anaphylaxis. Having available stock albuterol would have allowed respiratory distress to improve faster and allow for emergency medical care to arrive if delayed. Since the school was located in a major metropolitan area emergency medical services were available very quickly. If this had happened in a rural area without the availability of fast emergency medical services the outcome would not have been as positive. Kansas is a large state with variable communities with many students in rural areas. The need to add albuterol is essential to the well-being of our students in Kansas to be safe, healthy, and ready to learn.

I urge you as a United States Kansas citizen, a first responder, a school nurse, Kansas Registered Nurse, and a parent to please vote yes to pass HB 2547 out of committee and on to a floor vote in the full Kansas House of Representatives.

Graecinda Tedder, BSN, BSE, MEd., MSL, RN