



**Written Proponent Testimony on HB 2547
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
March 12, 2024**

Chairwoman Gossage and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for providing the opportunity for the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) to provide written testimony in support of HB 2547, which would authorize schools to maintain certain emergency medication kits and to administer such medication in emergency situations. KPHA is a professional organization that represents more than 800 public health practitioners, healthcare providers, researchers, advocates, and other professionals working together to build a healthier Kansas.

For more than 180 days every year, school nurses care for thousands of kids in Kansas. They care for children with special health needs that may or may not be diagnosed, like food allergies and asthma. In the event of an allergic reaction or severe asthma attack, school nurses must be equipped with the necessary tools to respond to life-threatening health emergencies. HB 2547 provides these tools by authorizing schools to keep life-saving medications on hand, including albuterol and epinephrine. Allowing school nurses to readily administer these medications to students experiencing respiratory distress is especially important for children in rural areas where emergency services may take longer to arrive. This legislation improves access to crucial, time-sensitive medical assistance for kids across Kansas. We encourage the Committee to favorably pass HB 2547.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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