



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

March 17, 2026

Representative Joseph McNamara
Chair, House Committee on Education
82 Smith St, Room 101
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Letter of Support for H7896: An Act Relating To Education -- Health And Safety Of Pupils

Dear Representative McNamara:

I write to you in support of H7896: An Act Relating To Education -- Health And Safety Of Pupils.

This bill permits students diagnosed with asthma, a condition that may lead to bronchospasm or anaphylaxis, or both, to carry and self-administer asthma medication or auto-injectable or intranasal epinephrine, or both.

While I am proud that the lifetime prevalence of asthma for children has decreased over the past ten years within Rhode Island, there are still thousands of children who live with asthma. As anyone who has lived with asthma can tell you, when an attack comes it can feel as though there are only precious minutes to administer medicine. This bill makes it easier for students to carry and administer their own injectable or intranasal medication.

Making it easier for students with asthma to treat their condition is more than just a public health issue. Studies have shown that there is a strong correlation between students with asthma and academic performance, with the Annals of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology finding that “in some urban areas, children with asthma miss an average of up to 2 weeks more of school than those without asthma.”

I remain committed to working with parents, teachers, administrators, and especially students to create a healthy learning environment. For these reasons, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabina Matos

Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor

CC: Rep. Megan Cotter