



Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America®

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

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The Honorable Melissa A. Murray
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: S 2855: An Act Relating to Education – Health and Safety

Possession, stocking and administration of rescue medicine for asthma or acute
bronchospasm, epinephrine, glucagon – Immunity for those administering

Dear Senator Murray:

My name is Jan Hanson and I am President of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, New England Chapter, (AAFA New England). AAFA New England serves all six New England states and we are based in Braintree, MA. I am writing today on behalf of AAFA New England to offer its strong support of **S 2855** currently under review by the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

Anaphylaxis caused by exposure to life-threatening allergens such as food, insect stings, medications, and latex, acute bronchospasm caused by an asthma episode, and severe hypoglycemia which can occur with diabetes, are all medical emergencies that can result in death if left untreated. Rescue medicines for asthma, epinephrine for severe allergic reactions and glucagon for severe hypoglycemia are life-saving medicines for these health emergencies. Access to these medicines and their timely administration is critically needed in the school setting and will save lives.

S 2855, if passed into law, would allow for schools to stock these life-saving medicines which are designed to be safely used by people who are not medical professionals, and store them in unlocked locations that are readily accessible. S. 2855 would also give immunity to trained individuals who administer them without fear of civil liability. Enacting this legislation is important and will save lives.

We are grateful for your concern for the safety of school-aged children in Rhode Island who are managing life-threatening allergies, asthma and diabetes. It is our sincere hope that the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services will support **S 2855** and report this bill favorably out of Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jan Hanson, M.A.
President, AAFA New England