

10 March 2026

[submitted electronically via: slegislation@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Melissa Murray Chair, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, RI 02903

RE: S2855 - RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Dear Chairperson Murray and members of the Senate Health and Human Services:

My name is Abigail Sidoti and I am a Doctor of Pharmacy student at the University of Rhode Island. I am speaking today to express my sincere **support for Senate Bill 2855**. This legislation strengthens protection for students with asthma, severe allergies, and diabetes by ensuring schools are equipped and school personnel and students are authorized to respond to medical emergencies with life-saving medications such as epinephrine, rescue inhalers, and glucagon.

I support S2855 because it increases student safety and improves access to timely emergency care in the school environment.

Personally, I grew up in the state of New York as a child with asthma. I vividly remember having an albuterol inhaler in the nurse's office in case I experienced shortness of breath or an asthma attack while at school. That experience shaped my understanding of how critical it is for schools to be prepared to respond to medical emergencies. By authorizing schools to stock emergency medications and train personnel in their administration, this legislation addresses critical gaps in response when a student's personal medication is unavailable or immediate treatment is required before emergency services arrive.

Currently, students experiencing life-threatening reactions may face delays in treatment due to lack of readily available medication or trained responders. This bill mitigates that risk by allowing designated school personnel to administer epinephrine, rescue inhalers, and glucagon. These provisions reflect evidence-based public health strategies that many jurisdictions have successfully implemented to reduce preventable harm.

Importantly, the legislation includes safeguards such as parental consent, medical documentation, and individualized health care plans for self-administration. It also provides reasonable immunity for school personnel acting within the scope of their training and in good faith. These protections encourage prompt action in emergencies while maintaining accountability.

This bill also promotes health equity. Students from families with limited resources or inconsistent access to health care, including emergency medications, should not face increased risk during the school day. By ensuring schools are prepared to respond to foreseeable medical emergencies, the legislation helps create a safer learning environment for all students regardless of background or socioeconomic status.

I created a comparison document reviewing all states' laws on stock albuterol and other emergency medications in schools, focusing on authorization, training requirements, and liability protections. After analyzing national best practices, I found that Rhode Island's bill incorporates the strongest elements from across the country, ensuring schools are well-equipped and legally protected to provide life-saving care to students.

As a member of the community, I believe every child deserves a safe and supportive educational setting. The ability to administer life-saving medications prevent serious injury and save lives. This proposal reflects a proactive approach to student health and safety that aligns with best practices in school health policy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to recommend passage of this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abigail Sidoti". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Abigail Sidoti

Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate, 2028

University of Rhode Island, College of Pharmacy