



Dear Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

March 16, 2026

Opposition of Senate Bill 2855 and House Bill 7896

On behalf of the Rhode Island Certified School Nurse Association (RICSNA), we respectfully submit testimony in opposition to **Senate Bill 2855 and House Bill 7896**, relating to the possession, stocking, and administration of rescue medications in schools.

RICSNA strongly supports policies that improve student access to life-saving medications during medical emergencies, including epinephrine, rescue inhalers, and glucagon. However, we have concerns that the language of this bill allows the administration of these medications by a broad range of school personnel without ensuring appropriate clinical assessment.

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) supports the availability of stock albuterol in schools **for administration by a registered professional school nurse** when students with known asthma exhibit symptoms of respiratory distress according to standing orders or protocols. NASN further emphasizes that a school nurse should be present in every school, all day, every day to ensure appropriate assessment and timely treatment. Symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath can have multiple causes, and clinical assessment is necessary before administering medication.

RICSNA has similar concerns regarding the administration of glucagon. Glucagon is intended for individuals with a **known diagnosis of diabetes** who are experiencing severe hypoglycemia and have an established emergency care plan. Symptoms such as confusion, sweating, dizziness, or altered consciousness may be caused by a variety of medical conditions. Determining whether a student is experiencing a diabetic emergency requires clinical assessment and knowledge of the student's medical history. Allowing glucagon to be administered to any student "believed in good faith" to be experiencing hypoglycemia without confirmation of a known diagnosis may place students at risk and falls outside the scope of practice of unlicensed school personnel.

RICSNA respectfully recommends that legislation addressing emergency medications in schools align with national school health best practices by emphasizing the role of the school nurse in assessment, standing orders, and medication administration while maintaining appropriate emergency support roles for trained staff.

We appreciate the committee's attention to the health and safety of Rhode Island's students and welcome the opportunity to collaborate on legislation that strengthens emergency preparedness in schools while maintaining evidence-based standards of care.

Sincerely,

Rhode Island Certified School Nurse Association
<https://ricsnta.nursingnetwork.com/>