



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE February 6, 2009

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Senate Bill 755 - An Act Concerning The Use Of Asthmatic Inhalers And Epinephrine Auto-Injectors While At School

The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to Senate Bill 755.

This legislation would implement a component of the statewide asthma plan to permit a student to retain possession of an asthma inhaler and/or an automatic pre-filled cartridge injector to self-administer either or both medications for prompt relief of asthma symptoms or an allergic condition. If this legislation moves forward, it would strengthen the Department's Asthma Program's position for future funding based on the federal Asthmatic's Treatment and Health Management Act of 2004. This act provides asthma – related funding preference to states having laws that protect student's rights to carry and self-administer asthma and/or anaphylaxis medication.

Facts Regarding Connecticut's Policy

- Connecticut is one of only three states that does not require an asthma medication self-administration protocol—Louisiana and South Dakota have no policy
- State is one of ten that does not require a protocol for self-administration of epinephrine auto injectors
- Current statute prevents students in districts without policy from carrying inhalers, epinephrine auto injectors

SB 755 would allow qualified children the ability to carry inhalers and/or epinephrine auto injectors and decrease risk of dangerous asthma and allergy attacks

We understand that the State Department of Education has raised concerns regarding this bill and we would urge the committee to take their concerns into consideration and address those concerns before this bill moves forward.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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