



Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America



Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America\*  
NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER



Children's National™



Green & Healthy Homes Initiative®



National Center for Healthy Housing



Nevada Statewide Asthma Coalition

Not One Life, Inc.



August 7, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Scott  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott:

Our organizations, many of whom are members of the Childhood Asthma Leadership Coalition, write to respectfully request Section 4105 (a)(4)(T) of the Senate substitute of S. 1177, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, be included in the final bill Congress approves. This provision would allow states and local educational agencies to use funds from Title IV (Safe and Healthy Students) for "the development and implementation of school asthma management plan[s]."

It is estimated that 6.1 million American children have asthma, representing 8.3 percent of our nation's youth. Asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalizations for children under the age of 15 and is a leading cause of school absences due to a chronic disease. Asthma is responsible for \$50.1 billion annually in healthcare costs, 10.5 million missed school days; and 14.2 million missed days of work and costs \$5.9 billion in lost productivity.

Asthma can be controlled with proper diagnosis, appropriate asthma care and management activities. Children with well-managed asthma can live normal, active lives. Management of asthma in children must involve a coordinated effort by medical providers, families and schools. Key components for school asthma management plans determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Strategies for Addressing Asthma within a Coordinated School Health Program include access to health services, asthma education and healthy environments.

We thank you for your understanding of the vital role healthy schools plays in our nation's education system and thank you for your support for including this provision in the final bill. Please contact Erika Sward of the American Lung Association (202-785-3355) for more information.

Sincerely,

American Lung Association  
Association of Asthma Educators  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, New England Chapter  
Asthma Regional Council of New England  
Bridge Atlanta Medical Center  
Children's National Health System  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative  
Health Resources in Action  
Healthy Schools Network  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Center for Healthy Housing  
Nemours Children's Health System  
Nevada Statewide Asthma Coalition  
Not One Life, Inc.  
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention  
Trust for America's Health

Cc: U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce