



March 24, 2026

Representative Sue Scherer, Chair

House Elementary & Secondary Education: Administration, Licensing & Charter Schools  
Committee

Stratton Office Building

401 S. Spring Street, E-2

Springfield, IL 62706

**RE: Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America Support of HB 4247**

Dear Chairperson Scherer and members of the House Elementary & Secondary  
Education: Administration, Licensing & Charter Schools Committee,

On behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), I am writing in support of HB 4247, Sch Cd-Asthma Medication. AAFA is the leading patient organization advocating for people with asthma and allergies, and the oldest asthma and allergy patient group in the world. AAFA is dedicated to saving lives and reducing the burden of disease for people with asthma and allergies through support, advocacy, education, and research.

Each year, more than half of all children with asthma experience an asthma attack, a sudden worsening of symptoms that can lead to a life-threatening emergency if not treated promptly and appropriately.<sup>1</sup> Albuterol is a key “rescue medication” that provides quick relief for people with asthma. It is an inhaled medication that treats asthma attacks by relaxing and opening the airways. It is vital that albuterol be available to treat asthma episodes in the school setting.

While every state permits students to self-carry albuterol,<sup>2</sup> children do not always have this medication prescribed or immediately available, and self-carrying is not appropriate for all children, particularly the very young. The CDC therefore

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<sup>1</sup> Mayo Clinic. (n.d.). *Asthma*. Mayo Clinic. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/asthma/symptoms-causes/syc-20369653>

<sup>2</sup> Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. (2025). *2025 State Honor Roll report*. AAFA. <https://aafa.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/aafa-2025-state-honor-roll-report.pdf>



recommends that schools maintain stock medication to address asthma attacks promptly.<sup>3</sup>

Fortunately, states are starting to take this important step. According to our [2025 State Honor Roll Report](#), 27 states, including Illinois, have laws or guidelines that permit schools to stock emergency albuterol.<sup>4</sup> The positive experience of these states demonstrates that emergency stocking of albuterol accrues significant benefits to students and their parents. A majority of students who received emergency albuterol were able to return to class instead of leaving school, resulting in better educational outcomes and reducing the risk of lost wages for parents.<sup>5</sup>

HB 4247 in Illinois strengthens existing laws, promoting public health, increasing academic outcomes, and reducing healthcare costs. As many as 90% of all people who have asthma also have Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction (EIB). You can also have EIB even if you do not have asthma.<sup>6</sup>

We urge you to issue a favorable report on HB 4247. We appreciate your consideration; please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Mendez  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

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<sup>3</sup> CDC, "Strategies for Addressing Asthma in Schools." Available at [www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/strategies\\_for\\_addressing\\_asthma\\_in\\_schools\\_508.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/strategies_for_addressing_asthma_in_schools_508.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Meets the condition "Allows and/or requires asthma quick-relief medicine stocking and authority to administer in schools." See: Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. (2025). *2025 State Honor Roll report*. AAFA. <https://aafa.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/aafa-2025-state-honor-roll-report.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Krieger J, et al. (2016). State-wide Legislation Positively Impacts Attendance for Students with Asthma. *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology*, 117(5): S57.

<sup>6</sup> American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. *Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction (EIB)*. (n.d.). ACAAI. Retrieved July 18, 2024, from <https://acaai.org/asthma/types-of-asthma/exercise-induced-bronchoconstriction-eib/>