



June 9, 2026

The Honorable Darshana R. Patel
State Capitol
PO Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0076

RE: Sponsorship of SB 1347

Dear Chairwoman Patel and members of the Assembly Education Committee,

On behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), I am writing to express that AAFA is a proud sponsor of SB 1347, Pupil health: emergency stock albuterol inhalers.

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.¹ 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 asthma quick-relief medicine be available to treat asthma episodes in the school setting, including preschools.

While every state permits students to self-carry asthma quick-relief medicine,² 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

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

² 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>



CDC therefore recommends that schools maintain stock medication to address asthma attacks promptly.³

We know that stocking emergency asthma quick-relief medicine works. A majority of students who received emergency asthma quick-relief medicine were able to return to class instead of leaving school, resulting in better educational outcomes and reducing the risk of lost wages for parents.⁴ However, these benefits should not just be limited to some ages – it is a vital measure for students in preschool, too.

This bill will improve student health, support academic success, and reduce costs for families and our healthcare system. SB 1347 has already passed the Senate floor unanimously. We urge you to issue a favorable report on this bill so that we can ensure that no child in California suffers a preventable asthma emergency simply because life-saving medication wasn't available.

Sincerely,

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

³ CDC, "Strategies for Addressing Asthma in Schools."

Available at www.cdc.gov/asthma/pdfs/strategies_for_addressing_asthma_in_schools_508.pdf

⁴ Krieger J, et al. (2016). State-wide Legislation Positively Impacts Attendance for Students with Asthma. *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology*, 117(5): S57.