



Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America

April 28, 2026

Chair Michael Benedetto
New York State Assembly Committee on Education
Albany, NY

Chair Shelley Mayer
New York State Senate Education Committee
Albany, NY

RE: Letter of Support for A.7586/S.7733

Dear Chair Benedetto of the Assembly Education Committee and the Chairwoman Mayer of the Senate Education Committee,

On behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) I am writing in support of A.7586/S.7733, a bill that aims to promote indoor air quality (IAQ) by amending the Education Law in New York to require schools to include a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system assessment in their Building Condition Survey to be eligible for future grants. Assessments must be facilitated by trained personnel and follow the guidance from the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). The bill also authorizes the Commissioner of Education to enter into contractual agreements with trained personnel to complete the report.

In AAFA's 2025 Asthma Capitals research report, **Rochester, Albany, Syracuse, and Poughkeepsie ranked in the top 20 most challenging cities to live with asthma.** Rochester, NY ranked second highest in the country, and New York was the state with the most cities in the top 20 overall.¹ This calculation is based on three health outcomes: prevalence, asthma-related ED visits, and asthma-related mortality rates. Nationwide, 9 to 11 people lose their lives to asthma every day. A.7586/S.7733 takes action to minimize the risk factors that exacerbate this chronic condition can help prevent severe outcomes for students and their teachers.

¹ Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. (2025, September). *2025 Asthma Capitals Report*. <https://aafa.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/aafa-2025-asthma-capitals-report.pdf>



Good indoor air quality in our schools can prevent severe outcomes for children suffering with asthma, improve school attendance, boost academic achievement, and support teacher health. In New York, implementing these air quality measures would simply build upon existing survey processes and identify issues related to ventilation, filtration, carbon dioxide levels, and airborne pollutants. Following in the footsteps of other states, A.7586/S.7733 creates a mechanism to assess air quality before it increases facility costs or creates or exacerbates health issues for teachers and students.

When we spend nearly 90% of our time indoors, good air quality is a necessity for health. Students and teachers spend approximately 7 hours of their day in school, and it is essential that this time is spent in a healthy environment, especially for the two students per classroom in New York that have asthma. For the thousands of New York children who manage asthma every day – and for the teachers and staff who work in these buildings, this bill matters.

A.7586/S.7733 is a comprehensive, science-based approach to protecting New York's schoolchildren from the health harms of poor indoor air quality. As the leading patient organization advocating for people with asthma and allergies, and the oldest asthma and allergy group in the world, we respectfully encourage the committee to move this bill.

Sincerely,

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