



May 12, 2026

Senator Gustavo Rivera, Chair
Senate Health Committee
State Capitol Building
172 State Street, Room 502-C
Albany, NY 12247

RE: Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America Support of S.6230-B

Dear Chairman Rivera and members of the Senate Health Committee,

On behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), I am writing in support of S.6230-B, an act to amend the public health law and the education law, in relation to authorizing camp employees to administer medications and treatment to children under certain circumstances. 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. Kids with Food Allergies, a division of AAFA, offers tools, education, and community to families and children living with food allergies across the country.

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.

Food allergies are affecting a growing number of children and adults in the U.S. About 5 percent of all children in the U.S. have food allergies. Exposure to the allergen can cause severe reactions, including anaphylaxis and, in rare cases, death. Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that can be life-threatening if not treated quickly and

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



properly with epinephrine. Epinephrine is the only treatment for anaphylaxis. Because there is no cure for food allergies, awareness and preparedness are key for protecting health and saving lives. Insect stings and bites can also cause anaphylaxis. In New York, insects like bees, wasps, hornets, and yellow jackets are more active in the summer months, when camps are in session, and when people tend to spend more time outside.²

S.6230-B allows camp employees with authorization and consent from a child's parent or guardian, to administer prescription medications for the treatment of emergency conditions, including asthma and anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis and asthma are both potentially life-threatening conditions, that require quick treatment and response. Allowing authorized employees to administer these medications quickly can be the difference between life and death. One preventable death of a young child is one too many. This allowance is evidence-based and will reduce risk for children in camps across the state. What's more, they will provide peace of mind to all the families managing allergies, and asthma at New York summer and overnight camps.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We are grateful for your concern for the safety of New York children and families managing allergies and asthma.

Sincerely,

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

² Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, (2025). Stinging Insect Allergy: Bees, Wasps, Hornets, Yellow Jackets. Retrieved from aafa.org/allergies/types-of-allergies/insect-allergy/bee-wasp-hornet-yellow-jacket