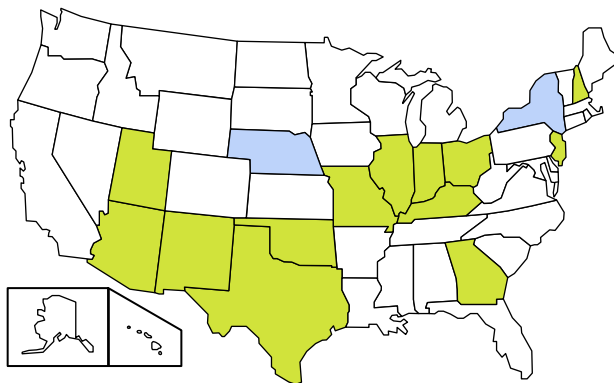




## Emergency Stock Asthma Medication

*Support **HSB 516**, sponsored by Rep. Meyer, to save lives and keep Iowa children safe in schools.*

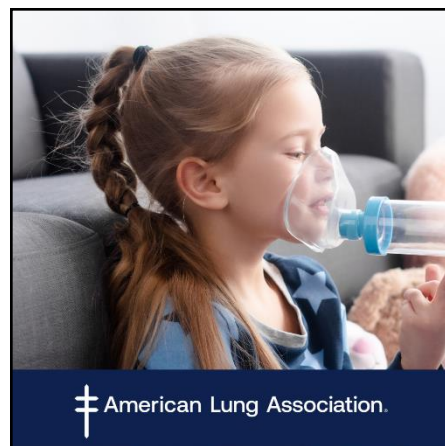
- Asthma, a chronic lung disease that makes it harder to move air into and out of your lungs, is one of the most common chronic conditions among children. In Iowa, 41,600 children have asthma (CDC, 2011).
- According to IDPH, in 2019, 34% of all county asthma emergency department (ED) visits were for children ages 5-14 in Iowa.
- Despite being the 31st most populated state in the United States, Iowa ranks 18th for asthma prevalence (CDC, 2020).
- Although asthma hospitalization rates have thankfully decreased over the years, in 2019 there were still more than 700 and more than 9,300 ED visits due to asthma statewide (IDPH, 2019).  
Nationally, non-Hispanic Black children were 5 times more likely to be admitted to the hospital for asthma, as compared to non-Hispanic white children, in 2017 (U.S. Office of Minority Health).
- Asthma is responsible for more than \$50 billion annually in healthcare costs and causes 7.9 million missed school days and 10.9 million missed days of work nationwide (Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, 2011).
- Because asthma attacks can occur anytime and often without warning, children with asthma should always have access to medication that can quickly reverse the blockages in their lungs. This life-saving medication, called a short-acting bronchodilator, is **easy** to administer, **inexpensive**, and very **safe**.



	State has stock bronchodilator in schools law (as of 8/01/21)
	State has stock bronchodilator in schools guidelines (as of 8/01/21)

HSB 516 would allow schools to purchase a single inhaler containing a short-acting bronchodilator along with inexpensive disposable spacers that can be used for anyone who experiences the sudden onset of respiratory distress. If enacted, HSB 516 would:

- ✓ Apply to all public and nonpublic schools.
- ✓ Apply to both students who have been diagnosed with asthma and students suffering from respiratory distress that may not have been diagnosed yet.
- ✓ Ensure that school staff are required to be properly trained in the proper use and administration of the stock asthma medication.
- ✓ Making certain that all school staff, officials or health care providers involved in administration or prescribing of stock asthma medication receive liability protection except in cases of willful or gross negligence.



**For more information, please contact:**

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