

# Comment Report

HSB 516

A bill for an act relating to the self-administration and storage of bronchodilators and bronchodilator canisters and spacers relative to schools and students.(See HF 2280.)

Subcommittee Members: Jeneary-CH, Bush, Mascher

Date: 01/31/2022

Time: 05:00 PM

Location: RM 304.1

**Name:** Alicia Gerke

**Comment:** My name is Alicia Gerke, MD, and I am a member of the American Lung Associations Local Leadership Board of Iowa. I am reaching out to express my strong support for HSB 516, which will allow schools in Iowa to provide more immediate access to medications for students with asthma or suffering from respiratory distress. Asthma can be a deadly disease if flareups are not treated immediately. This bill has the potential to save lives and keep kids safe in schools. Asthma impacts millions of lives and has a tremendous impact on our nations healthcare system and economy. In the U.S., close to 25 million Americans, including 5.5 million children have asthma. In Iowa, 41,600 children have asthma. In 2019, 34% of all county asthma emergency department (ED) visits were for children ages 5-14. Despite being the 31st most populated state in the United States, Iowa ranks 18th for asthma prevalence. Although asthma hospitalization rates have decreased over the years, there were still more than 700 in 2019, and more than 8,600 ED visits due to asthma. Nationally, 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. 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 lifesaving medication, called a shortacting bronchodilator, is easy to administer, inexpensive, and very safe. I appreciate the Iowa General Assembly for their continued commitment to the health and wellbeing of the residents of our state and the desire to protect Iowa students. I strongly support HSB 516 as drafted and encourage swift action to move the bill out of subcommittee and onto passage by the full Human Resources Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

**Name:** John Bergman

**Comment:** I am a member of the American Lung Association of Iowas Local Leadership Board. I am reaching out to express my strong support for HSB 516, which will allow schools in Iowa to provide more immediate access to medications for students with asthma or suffering from respiratory distress. Asthma can be a deadly disease if flareups are not treated immediately. This bill has the potential to save lives and keep kids safe in schools. Asthma impacts millions of lives and has a tremendous impact on our nations healthcare system and economy. In the U.S., close to 25 million Americans, including 5.5 million children have asthma. In Iowa, 41,600 children have asthma. In 2019, 34% of all county asthma emergency department (ED) visits were for children ages 5-14. Despite being the 31st most populated state in the United States, Iowa ranks 18th for asthma prevalence. Although asthma hospitalization rates have decreased over the years, there were still more than 700 in 2019, and more than 8,600 ED visits due to asthma. Nationally, 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. 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 lifesaving medication, called a shortacting bronchodilator, is easy to administer, inexpensive, and very safe. I appreciate the Iowa General Assembly for their continued commitment to the health and wellbeing of the residents of our state and the desire to protect Iowa students. I strongly support HSB 516 as drafted and encourage swift action to move the bill out of subcommittee and onto passage by the full Human Resources Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

**Name:** Micki Sandquist

**Comment:** My name is Micki Sandquist and I am the Executive Director of the American Lung Association in Iowa. I am reaching out to express my strong support for HSB 516, which will allow schools in Iowa to provide more immediate access to medications for students with asthma or suffering from respiratory distress. Asthma can be a deadly disease if flareups are not treated immediately. This bill has the potential to save lives and keep kids safe in schools. Asthma impacts millions of lives and has a tremendous impact on our nations healthcare system and economy. In the U.S., close to 25 million Americans, including 5.5 million children have asthma. In Iowa, 41,600 children have asthma. In 2019, 34% of all county asthma emergency department (ED) visits were for children ages 5-14. Despite being the 31st most populated state in the United States, Iowa ranks 18th for asthma prevalence. Although asthma hospitalization rates have decreased over the years, there were still more than 700 in 2019, and more than 8,600 ED visits due to asthma. Nationally, 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. 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 lifesaving medication, called a shortacting bronchodilator, is easy to administer, inexpensive, and very safe. I appreciate the Iowa General Assembly for their continued commitment to the health and wellbeing of the residents of our state and the desire to protect Iowa students. I strongly support HSB 516 as drafted and encourage swift action to move the bill out of subcommittee and onto passage by the full Human Resources Committee. Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to let me know any questions. Thank you! Micki

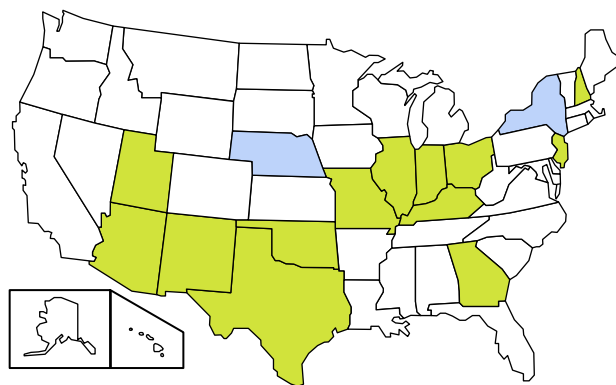
**Name:** Kristina Hamilton



**Comment:** The American Lung Association is the oldest voluntary health organization in the United States. For more than 115 years, the Lung Association has been working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. The Lung Association works on behalf of the nearly 37 million Americans living with lung diseases, including 327,000 patients with lung disease in Iowa. The American Lung Association is in strong support of HSB 516, a bill that will allow schools in Iowa to provide more immediate access to medications for students with asthma or suffering from respiratory distress. Asthma can be a deadly disease if flareups are not treated immediately. This bill has the potential to save lives and keep kids safe in schools. 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 lifesaving medication, called a shortacting bronchodilator, is easy to administer, inexpensive, and very safe. Thank you for your consideration.

## Emergency Stock Asthma Medication

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

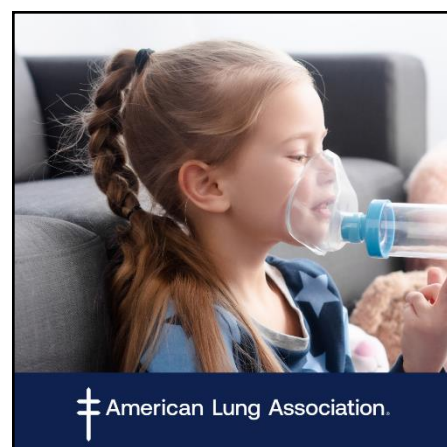
- Asthma, a chronic lung disease that makes it harder to move air into and out of your lungs, is one of the most common chronic conditions among children. In Iowa, 41,600 children have asthma (CDC, 2011).
- According to IDPH, in 2019, 34% of all county asthma emergency department (ED) visits were for 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:**

Kristina Hamilton: [Kristina.Hamilton@lung.org](mailto:Kristina.Hamilton@lung.org) | 301-257-7283