



School nurse standing order

The ask

Pass HB 2360 / SB 5951 to create a statewide standing order allowing school nurses to administer albuterol.

The need¹

- Approximately 10% of school-aged children in the country are impacted by asthma, with a higher prevalence among lower-income students and students of color.
- Many students have undiagnosed asthma and may experience their first asthma exacerbation at school.
- Multiple studies have found that exposure to wildfire smoke can not only worsen asthma, but can also contribute to the development of asthma.
- School-age children with asthma are more likely to experience school absences than their peers.
- Studies have found that as few as 14% of students have access to albuterol inhaler medication at school, with a major reason being lost or expired inhalers.
- Within the past decade, at least 15 states have enacted legislation providing for stock albuterol policies.

Benefits of creating standing orders for albuterol

- Access to stock albuterol medication is effective for respiratory distress and safe for children.
- Allows school nurses to provide immediate assistance to students in distress.
- Ensures students experiencing respiratory challenges can receive immediate care on school grounds, reducing the risk of negative health outcomes.
- Builds on current law that provides a standing order for epinephrine in school settings.
- Every student should have access to life-saving medications.

1. American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine Volume 4 Number 205, September 1, 2021