

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

Ohio Chapter

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November 13, 2018

Dear Members of the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee—

On behalf of the 2,900 members of the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing today to offer our support of House Bill 101. As the leading voice for pediatricians and the children they serve, we appreciate efforts made by the Ohio General Assembly to increase access to life-saving epi-pens.

As you know, HB 101 expands existing state law that allows pharmacists to exchange generic or comparable drugs for lower cost alternatives to include epinephrine autoinjectors. Given the cost of many prescription drugs, we believe that it is important to allow options, such as this, to patients so that they may choose a product that is appropriate and affordable for them. The American Academy of Pediatrics fully endorses any such program that may make life saving medications more attainable to our patients.

HB 101 would also allow a physician to establish a protocol with a pharmacist to dispense epinephrine to individuals that are at risk for anaphylaxis. This provides physicians with an additional tool to protect patients in their community by expanding access to epi-pens to at risk populations. For many children and adults with potentially dangerous allergies it is important to have an epinephrine autoinjector on hand to ensure their safety in the case of a situation resulting in a life-threatening reaction.

While our members believe that HB 101 represents a positive step forward, I would like to stress the importance of yearly physicals for children with food allergies, so that we can monitor the state of their allergies and the necessary dose of epinephrine. As food allergies can adjust and adapt overtime it is crucial that physicians maintain an up to date knowledge on the condition of their patients' allergies and overall health.

In closing, our members believe that HB 101 will expand access to epi-pens for all Ohioans who need this life-saving drug. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Wervey Arnold".

Melissa Wervey Arnold
Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics