



Testimony for House Bill 462

State Representative Tracy Richardson, District 86

House Health Committee

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Chairwoman Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, and Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 462.

HB 462 is a bill that recognizes the need for students to have quick response, easy-to-use treatment for anaphylaxis and for parents to have multiple delivery options for that care. The request for this change was brought to me by a resident in my district, and I soon learned that the concern was not limited to my community.

In 2014, the 130th General Assembly enacted legislation that codified student ability to possess and use epinephrine auto-injectors for the treatment of anaphylaxis. At that time, auto-injectors were the most child friendly option for delivering lifesaving medication.

Since then, a new technology and delivery system for epinephrine has been developed. In August of 2024, the FDA approved an intranasal epinephrine spray as an alternative to autoinjectors. School nurses are already receiving written approvals for this nasal spray prescription but cannot allow students to carry it because this type of epinephrine delivery device is not included in the law. HB 462 simply adds nasal epinephrine devices as an additional option for students to carry at school and school-sponsored activities. The bill empowers parents to decide by including an additional delivery method in Ohio law.

According to the CDC, 8% of children suffer with severe allergies. That's 1 in 13 children, and this is a growing health concern among Americans. When students, teachers, or school staff have to administer epinephrine, nasal spray may help to avoid anxiety as well as potential hesitation while delivering the medication.

As a mom, I understand that parents want the option to choose the delivery method of epinephrine that best addresses the needs and the safety of their child. Parents want to

feel confident sending their children to school knowing that, should a severe allergic reaction occur, their child will have a device on hand that could save their life.

HB 462 is a simple, but vital change for students, parents, and school staff who must administer epinephrine in a life-or-death situation. It updates our code to reflect the newest innovation in epinephrine delivery and provides a meaningful option for parents.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on this bill. I will gladly answer any questions you may have.