

Testimony from Courtney Butler, parent advocate in support of House Bill 462.

Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Committee. I'm writing today in support of HB 462, to allow my child, and all others to be able to self-carry their own intranasal epinephrine, currently marketed as Neffy. As a parent of a child with severe allergies, this puts my mind at ease. I have sat in on school meetings with school nurses, I've spent time researching safe options, and I've also spent time with teachers and other allergy parents, sharing concerns on current locations of students' epinephrine. The safety concerns that come with lunch and recess duty along with unknown ingredients in packed lunches. Not only would nasal spray being self-carried on my child help put her mind at ease, it would also lessen the stress of staff and peers surrounding her. As she ages and is more aware of the risks and severity of her allergies, she is also more involved in school activities and in contact with more outside foods. This actually heightens her risk of coming into contact with a life-threatening allergy, and being able to self-administer a nasal spray not only provides her with safety and comfort, but a lower stress and less invasive option. Allergies should not be taken lightly, and those unaware of them may not realize this could potentially mean life or death in a child/student. To help avoid any critical or fatal incident, I strongly encourage that you take these words and provide these kids with the safety they deserve. I have long awaited a day that my child could walk into her school with epinephrine in hand and I feel nasal spray provides that. I appreciate your time and efforts in this matter and look forward to building a safer future for kids with allergies together.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney Butler

Parent advocate for HB 462