



Ohio Chapter

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March 29, 2017

Dear Members of the House Health 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 perspective on 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.

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. We would like to stress the importance that the prescribed epinephrine injector only be substituted with another epinephrine product with a similar medication delivery system. Though we realize the need for affordable medications we believe that the design of epinephrine autoinjectors is the best delivery system in the case an epinephrine injection is needed in an emergency.

Furthermore we 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.

Our members believe that HB 101 will provide a valuable tool to assist patients in obtaining epi-pens at a lower cost. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Wervey Arnold".

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