



## **SUPPORT H.R. 4662 – School-Based Asthma Management Program Act**

### **Issue**

H.R. 4662 amends the Public Health Service Act to increase the preference given in awarding certain asthma-related grants to states that allow trained school personnel to administer asthma-related quick-relief medications, and for other purposes.

### **Background**

Of the 24 million Americans diagnosed with asthma, more than 6 million are children under 18. This chronic disease is the leading cause of school absenteeism, and uncontrolled asthma can lead to decreased academic performance.

In 1991, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Education (DOE) published a guide for management of asthma at school. HHS and DOE recommended that all schools: 1) have School-Based Asthma Management Programs (SAMPROs) in place; and 2) have on file an individualized asthma action plan (AAP) for each student with asthma. Almost 25 years later, our nation is falling well short of these goals, as several studies have documented that many schools do not have AAPs for students with asthma.

Legislation enacted in 2004 established a preference for the allocation of existing federal asthma control grants to those states having laws giving children the right to carry and self-administer their lifesaving asthma/allergy/anaphylaxis medications at school. Congress amended this law in 2013 by encouraging states to allow schools to “stock” epinephrine to treat episodes of anaphylaxis when patients did not have their own medicine. **H.R. 4662** would add additional provisions to the criteria for the federal asthma grant preference such that states would be incentivized to ensure that schools:

- Stock asthma-related quick-relief medications, asthma-related devices (e.g., spacers and nebulizers) and educational materials;
- Implement an asthma action plan for students with asthma diagnosis to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for children with asthma;
- Provide asthma education for school staff (e.g., asthma basics, asthma management, trigger management, and comprehensive emergency responses to asthma attacks); and
- Coordinate care and improve communication among schools, family members and primary care providers.

## Discussion

**H.R. 4662** does not authorize new funding. It leverages existing federal asthma grants to encourage improved school-based management of asthma. This bill was Introduced on March 2, 2016 by Representatives David “Phil” Roe (R-TN) and Steny Hoyer (D-MD). The bill has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

### In addition to Allergy & Asthma Network, bill endorsed by:

American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology	National Association of School Nurses
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology	American Academy of Pediatrics
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America	National Association of Chronic Disease Directors

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

#### House

- Co-sponsor H.R. 4662
- Report the bill out of House Energy and Commerce Committee

#### Senate

- Introduce companion legislation to H.R. 4662 in the Senate or include legislative language that incentivizes states by awarding federal asthma grants to encourage improved school-based management of asthma as an amendment in a bill up for a vote in the Senate.