



















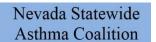








Nemours. Children's Health System



Not One Life, Inc.





August 7, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander Chairman Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Kline Chairman Committee on Education and the Workforce U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray Ranking Member Committee on Health, Education, Labor and **Pensions** U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert C. Scott Ranking Member Committee on Education and the Workforce U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott:

Our organizations, many of whom are members of the Childhood Asthma Leadership Coalition, write to respectfully request Section 4105 (a)(4)(T) of the Senate substitute of S. 1177, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, be included in the final bill Congress approves. This provision would allow states and local educational agencies to use funds from Title IV (Safe and Healthy Students) for "the development and implementation of school asthma management plan[s]."

It is estimated that 6.1 million American children have asthma, representing 8.3 percent of our nation's youth. Asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalizations for children under the age of 15 and is a leading cause of school absences due to a chronic disease. Asthma is responsible for \$50.1 billion annually in healthcare costs, 10.5 million missed school days; and 14.2 million missed days of work and costs \$5.9 billion in lost productivity.

Asthma can be controlled with proper diagnosis, appropriate asthma care and management activities. Children with well-managed asthma can live normal, active lives. Management of asthma in children must involve a coordinated effort by medical providers, families and schools. Key components for school asthma management plans determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Strategies for Addressing Asthma within a Coordinated School Health Program include access to health services, asthma education and healthy environments.

We thank you for your understanding of the vital role healthy schools plays in our nation's education system and thank you for your support for including this provision in the final bill. Please contact Erika Sward of the American Lung Association (202-785-3355) for more information.

## Sincerely,

American Lung Association Association of Asthma Educators Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, New England Chapter Asthma Regional Council of New England Bridge Atlanta Medical Center Children's National Health System First Focus Campaign for Children Green & Healthy Homes Initiative **Health Resources in Action Healthy Schools Network National Association of School Nurses** National Center for Healthy Housing Nemours Children's Health System Nevada Statewide Asthma Coalition Not One Life, Inc. Regional Asthma Management and Prevention Trust for America's Health

Cc: U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce