



Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America



Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America*
NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER



Children's National™



National Center for Healthy Housing



Nevada Statewide Asthma Coalition

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 Patty Murray
Ranking Member
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 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