



WASN

Wisconsin Association of School Nurses

WASN Position on Assembly Bill 502 -- EpiPen Legislation

The Wisconsin Association of School Nurses (WASN) appreciates the heightened awareness surrounding the management of life-threatening allergies in the school setting as reflected in Assembly Bill 502. Additionally, we support the provision in the bill that requires the physician to be a key member of the school district's team for the development of a "school plan" for the management of pupils attending the school who have life-threatening allergies. We also support a number of the provisions in the bill, such as the requirement for school staff to receive training to administer epinephrine. We also support the inclusion of language that highlights the school nurse's role in case-managing students with life-threatening allergies.

But as AB 502 is written, WASN is unable to support the legislation. WASN is concerned by a number of items in the bill. The first is that the bill would remove the requirement that schools call 911 after epinephrine has been administered to a student (by a school bus operator, employee or volunteer). Experts in the area of life-threatening allergy management support calling 911 after the administration of epinephrine in the school setting.

Secondly, the bill does not outline the medication administration training that would be required for school staff. Currently, school staff are required to receive training that is approved by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Finally, WASN believes that physicians and school nurses are vital members of the teams that develop, implement and evaluate "school plans" for the management of life-threatening allergies. WASN is concerned that AB 502 would allow school nurses "or designated school personnel" to implement the plans. Having a non-health care professional in charge could be problematic, especially when a plan allows Epinephrine to be given to students and staff who do not have the medication specifically prescribed for them (i.e. stocked EpiPens). To ensure health and safety, these situations often require the expertise and judgment of a health care professional such as a school nurse.