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May 6, 2020

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Importance of the *School-Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act (H.R. 2468)* as schools reopen

Dear Majority Leader Hoyer,

Thank you for your ongoing leadership of the *School-Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act (H.R. 2468)*. As you continue to work to advance this legislation, we wanted to provide information regarding the importance of H.R. 2468 related to the current COVID-19 pandemic. As the country works to have the necessary precautions in place to work toward successful reopening, your legislation is important as schools reopen, and students return to the classroom.

Established in 1943, the AAAAI is a professional organization with more than 6,700 members in the United States, Canada and 72 other countries. This membership includes board certified allergist/immunologists, other medical specialists, allied health, and related healthcare professionals – all with a special interest in the research and treatment of patients with allergic and immunological diseases.

AAAAI continues to inform asthmatic patients about what they need to know about COVID-19. Importantly, there have been several reports that steroids are contraindicated in COVID-19 disease. Therefore, it has been important to inform those who use an inhaled or oral steroid to continue their medications to control their asthma during this pandemic. Stopping a controller medication will put the person at risk for developing an asthma exacerbation which many times results in a trip to the emergency department or urgent care where the individual can have a much higher risk of being exposed to someone with COVID-19.

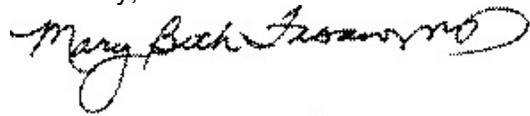
The *School-Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act (H.R. 2468)* encourages and supports States in making sure schools have in place a comprehensive school-based allergies and asthma management program that identifies all students with a diagnosis of allergies and asthma, has an action plan in place for these students, and has staff directly responsible for such students to support education regarding basics, management, trigger management,

comprehensive emergency responses with respect to allergies and asthma, and a system to support students with such diagnoses through coordination with family members and primary care providers.

Your legislation will help support students with asthma and allergies and their families to encourage consistent management of their conditions once they are able to return to school.

Again, thank you for your leadership of this important issue. The AAAAI looks forward to continuing to work with you to advance this legislation. Please contact Sheila Heitzig, JD, MNM, CAE, AAAAI Director of Practice and Policy, at (414) 272-6071 or sheitzig@aaaai.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Beth Fasano, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Beth Fasano, MD, MSPH, FAAAAAI