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April 21, 2015

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

I am writing on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology to express support for the School Asthma Management Plans Act. This bill would allow schools to apply for grants to support the development of asthma management plans and the purchase of medical supplies necessary to treat students affected by asthma. The AAAAI is the largest professional medical specialty organization in the United States representing allergists, asthma specialists, clinical immunologists, allied health professionals and others dedicated to improving the treatment of allergic diseases through research and education.

Asthma can be controlled with proper medical diagnosis and management. Nevertheless, asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism. For over two decades, the National Asthma Education Program has recommended that schools develop asthma management plans for their students with asthma. ([http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/files/docs/resources/lung/asth\\_sch.pdf](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/files/docs/resources/lung/asth_sch.pdf))

With such plans in place, schools can ensure that students are receiving necessary asthma care when in school; identify students at greatest risk due to moderate or severe asthma; understand asthma triggers; and facilitate coordination between schools, home, and health care providers. Students benefit from improved management of their asthma through better attendance; improved alertness and physical stamina; fewer symptoms; and fewer medical emergencies. The bill that you will introduce will help to achieve these goals.

As the current president of the AAAAI, this bill is of great interest to me personally since my major presidential initiative focuses on the creation of the Office of School-based Management of Asthma and Allergic/Immunologic Diseases within the AAAAI to serve as a resource for the creation of programs to establish optimal clinician-school nurse-family communications to better care for children with asthma in the school setting.

On behalf of the AAAAI, I thank you for your leadership on this issue and for your efforts to ensure that students with asthma are safe in school. The Academy is pleased to endorse the School Asthma Management Plans Act.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Lemanske, Jr., MD, FAAAAI  
President