

Testimony
Senate Bill No.2196
House Human Services Committee
Representative Matthew Ruby, Chairman
March 17, 2025

Chairman Ruby, and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Heather Kapella, a Program Administrator for the Special Health Services Unit. I also serve in the role of State School Nurse Consultant with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you in support of Senate Bill No. 2196, relating to student self-administration of asthma or anaphylaxis medication.

North Dakota Century Code 15.1-19-16 defines "emergency medication" as including a prescription drug that is delivered through inhalation to relieve asthmatic symptoms, as well as an epinephrine autoinjectable pen.

In August 2024, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the approval of Neffy, an epinephrine nasal spray, for the emergency treatment of allergic reactions, including life-threatening conditions like anaphylaxis, in adults and children weighing at least 66 pounds.

Epinephrine is the only life-saving treatment for anaphylaxis and was previously available only as an injection. The introduction of the epinephrine nasal spray may help eliminate barriers to quick treatment for anaphylaxis. This condition can be life-threatening, and some individuals, especially children, may hesitate or avoid treatment due to a fear of injections. Therefore, Neffy offers an important option for students to self-administer medication for anaphylaxis.

The proposed new language in SB 2196, which specifies that a device contains a premeasured dose of epinephrine, aligns with current FDA recommendations. This change supports the use of this new nasal spray treatment option while still permitting the use of an autoinjectable pen.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.