

December 18, 2013
Senate Committee on Education

Department of Public Instruction
Testimony on 2013 Senate Bill 375

Thank you to Chairman Olsen and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Jennifer Kammerud and I am the Legislative Liaison for the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and am here today to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) due to concerns over student safety.

SB 375 would create a new section of statutes related solely to the use of epinephrine auto-injectors. It would allow schools who adopt a management plan for life-threatening allergies to provide epinephrine auto-injectors to students and administer an auto-injector to a student regardless of whether there is a prescription on file for that student. It also grants immunity from civil liability for the consequences of using an epinephrine auto-injector under this section of statute.

The department's two main concerns with the bill revolve around the requirement to call 911 and consistency with current law surrounding training.

The bill eliminates the requirement to call 911 after use of an auto-injector. The department would like to see that provision reinstated.

Any use of an auto-injector needs to be followed by a call to 911. The medicine contained in an auto-injector is emergency medication meant to keep a student from an anaphylactic reaction or treat the reaction until further medical attention can be received. When this medicine wears off the life-threatening reaction can return. Moreover, the auto-injector dosage used is based on weight. If the wrong dosage is used, emergency attention needs to be received immediately.

SB 375 would change current law training requirements under Wis. Stats. 118.29 (6). This statute currently requires training for invasive administrations which include inhaled, injected, and rectally administered medicines, and medicines administered through nasogastric, gastrostomy, and jejunostomy tubes. For these types of medication administrations in public schools the state requires DPI approved training.

The department is asking that SB 375 be amended to cross reference this current law requirement and make it clear that the state is not lowering the medication administration standard for care in current law. All safety plans created under this bill should be required to comply with these current law training requirements.

The department appreciates the purpose behind this bill and if the two changes I have discussed regarding 911 and the training requirements were made the department would remove its opposition to the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and at this time I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.