

Legislative Testimony

House Health and Human Services

March 17, 2005



Mark Desetti Testimony
Committee on Health and Human Services
March 17, 2005
Senate Bill 10

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to speak on **Senate Bill 10**. My name is Mark Desetti, and I represent the Kansas NEA.

We believe that the intent behind this bill is simply to ensure that students, in emergency situations, receive medical attention that is life-saving. In emergency situations, we agree with the intent.

Senate Bill 10 protects that school district, school, and school personnel from liability and we think that is essential. If a student must self-medicate and the requisite permissions are on file, then indeed the district, school, and personnel must never be held liable when things go wrong.

If this bill is passed, it is critical that school personnel know for whom such permission has been granted. An uninformed school employee might intervene with a student and unwittingly cause the very crisis that this bill attempts to address. The bill was amended by the Senate to require that the teachers with whom the student comes in contact be informed of the permission to self-medicate. This will ensure that a teacher, seeing a child ready to use an epipen will understand the issue and not interfere. This was an important amendment and we are pleased to see it included.

We support **Senate Bill 10** and believe that it has the potential to save lives. We can do that by making sure that students who need emergency medication know how to use it and have access to it and that the employees charged with their care are knowledgeable about the student's needs.

We urge this committee to pass **Senate Bill 10** favorably.