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Subject:	HB2478 testimony

To the members of the Kansas House of Representatives Health and Human Services Committee Re: HB2478

The Kansas Asthma Coalition strongly supports any effort to educate Kansas children diagnosed with asthma about how they may better manage their disease. Better asthma control reduces the likelihood of asthma attacks that can lead to missed school days and reduced participation in activities for the child.

Children who understand how and when to properly use their asthma medications should be allowed to carry and self-administer medications. This proper usage means they should follow a written Asthma Care Plan developed in conjunction with their primary care physician or asthma specialist.

The Kansas Asthma Coalition's mission is to improve the health and quality of life for Kansans diagnosed with asthma. Our goal is to identify undiagnosed asthma by increasing awareness of asthma symptoms for the general public and providing data and information to health care providers about the diagnosis and treatment of asthma.

William Pankey, M.D. President, Kansas Asthma Coalition Vice President, Medical Administration FirstGuard Health Plan