



Texas Association of School Boards

P.O. Box 400 • Austin, Texas 78767-0400 • 512.467.0222
12007 Research Blvd. • Austin, Texas 78759-2439 • www.tasb.org

Serving Texas Schools Since 1949

Testimony on HB 4407

Good morning Madame Chair and Members. My name is Julie Shields, and I'm here today representing the Texas Association of School Boards.

I am here today testifying ON HB 4407 to offer you our concerns to make this bill administrable and protect the lives of Texas school children.

Very few districts have a physician on staff to prescribe this medication. This bill requires districts to find doctors to essentially blindly prescribe anaphylaxis medication for a student he or she has never even seen. School districts are concerned that they won't be able to find a doctor willing to risk his or her license to give a generic standing order without specific patient information.

Many districts currently do not keep ANY non-prescription medicine on campuses, and do not administer ANY medication without a specific physician's prescription, due to liability concerns. There's a reason for it. Section 22.052 of the Education Code only grants immunity to school district employees for administering medication if the district has received a written request to administer the medication from the parent or guardian.

This is a costly move forward, and one that comes with a **recurring** cost that is not reflected in the fiscal note. Epipens run \$66 a piece and expire after one year. For every campus in Texas to have a modest number of Epipens---12---it would cost 6.5 million dollars a year. If you're an urban district, you would need a significantly larger number.

This is a very serious issue. We'd like to see a more detailed approach to address some of these concerns. We hope additional facts are gathered during the interim in an attempt to best address the needs of Texas students.