



January 25, 2016

Dear Representative Pugh and Members of the House Committee on Human Services,

Thank you for reaching out to the Vermont Chamber of Commerce regarding H.300 which enables authorized entities to maintain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors on its premises. The Vermont Chamber supports the proposal as drafted, recognizing that severe allergic reactions are becoming more common and are often unpredictable. A formal process that allows access to epinephrine auto-injectors in public spaces, including the workplace, can save lives.

Key provisions of the bill that are important for the business community include:

- Voluntary participation by authorized entities, including businesses. Having participation on an at-will basis will allow businesses to decide if stocking epinephrine is necessary and if the training for designated employees is affordable.
- The good samaritan protections to limit liability when epinephrine is administered are critical. The Vermont Chamber supports having authorized employees trained by medical professionals, and immunity from any civil or criminal liability, unless the individual's or organization's behavior constitutes misconduct, will encourage people to administer the lifesaving drug in emergency situations.

As your Committee continues to consider H.300, we would ask that you maintain record keeping and reporting requirements that are not overly burdensome, and therefore may deter businesses from stocking epinephrine auto-injectors.

Thus far 15 states have enacted similar legislation to lower the risk of anaphylaxis in their communities and H.300 is a balanced path forward to do the same for Vermont. Please let me know if you have any questions at kmelvin@vtchamber.com or 802-262-2130 and thank you for your time on this issue.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kendal Melvin".

Kendal Melvin
Government Affairs Specialist