



6117 Monona Drive • Madison, WI 53716 • 608-221-0383 • Fax 608 221-2788  
info@wisconsinnurses.org • [www.wisconsinnurses.org](http://www.wisconsinnurses.org)

TO: Senator Leah Vukmir, Chairperson and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
FROM: Gina Dennik-Champion, MSN, RN, MSHA, Executive Director, Wisconsin Nurses Association  
DATE: May 20, 2015  
RE: Support of SB 139, Supply and use of epinephrine auto-injectors by certain authorized entities

---

Thank you Chairperson Vukmir and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for holding this public hearing on SB 139 which allows a physician (MD), physician assistant (PA) or an advanced practice nurse prescriber (APNP) to prescribe an epinephrine auto-injector for an entity or organization for use in the event of an individual experiencing an anaphylactic reaction to a known or suspected allergen. We also thank Senator Vukmir for sponsoring this legislative proposal.

My name is Gina Dennik-Champion. I am a registered nurse and the Executive Director for the Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA). WNA is the professional organization for all registered nurses in Wisconsin and we are pleased to submit testimony in support of SB 139. WNA advocates for prevention and health promotion that includes a well prepared emergency response and recovery system. Anaphylaxis is a severe, whole-body allergic reaction to a chemical that has become an allergen that can be life-threatening. Anaphylaxis can occur in response to any allergen and the most common causes are drug, food, insect bites/stings and latex.

According to a report in the September 2014 issue of *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, E. Jerschow and colleagues present temporal trends of fatal anaphylaxis in the United States from 1999 through 2010 and the associations of fatal anaphylaxis with age, gender, race and geographical distribution. Their reported findings that there are "combined prevalence of 0.86 deaths due to anaphylaxis per million people in the United States. These results indicate that the US has one of the highest prevalence of fatal anaphylaxis in the world." Food and venom allergies were a common cause of death in the study.

SB 139 appropriately defines the conditions for those entities and organizations interested in having a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors available. WNA supports an emergency response system that includes competency-based trained and certified individuals with a plan for obtaining a medical evaluation and other treatment as necessary.

WNA also supports SB 139 as it recognizes the use of PAs and APNPs as health professionals that can prescribe and deliver a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors to businesses, other entities and organizations.



6117 Monona Drive • Madison, WI 53716 • 608-221-0383 • Fax 608 221-2788  
info@wisconsinnurses.org • [www.wisconsinnurses.org](http://www.wisconsinnurses.org)

On behalf of WNA, thank you Senator Vukmir for developing this legislative proposal and for scheduling this hearing. We thank those Committee members who are co-sponsoring SB 139 and ask for immediate passage.