



Childhood Asthma Leadership Coalition

Winter-Spring 2020 Legislative Priorities

The ***Elijah E. Cummings Family Asthma Act (H.R. 5230)*** was originally championed by the late Representative Elijah Cummings (D-MD), and was recently reintroduced by Representatives Engel (D-NY) Upton (R-MI), Cox (D-CA), and King (R-NY). The bill would expand the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Asthma Control Program to serve all 50 states and direct the CDC to collaborate with state and local health departments to educate the public about asthma. It would also require the development of state plans to address asthma, particularly for disproportionately affected communities, and would require the collection and coordination of data on the impact of asthma.

The ***Asthma Care and Prevention in Rural Communities Act (H.R.4548)***, introduced by Representatives Vargas (D-CA), Cox (D-CA), and Engel (D-NY), instructs the CDC to provide grants for mobile clinics and telemedicine to treat asthma in children living in rural and medically underserved communities. The legislation also directs the CDC to perform a study on the burden of asthma in rural communities and report proposed solutions back to Congress.

The ***Inhaler Coverage and Access Now Act (H.R.4716)***, introduced by Representatives Cox (D-CA) and Sewell (D-AL), would require certain high deductible health plans to cover the cost of inhalers for the treatment of any chronic lung disease, including asthma. These plans would ensure that access to inhalers and other asthma treatments would be available at affordable costs, even if the minimum deductible has not been met. *Enacted 2/28/2020 as part of H.R. 2339, the Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2020.*

H.R. 4742, introduced by Representatives Suozzi (D-NY) and King (R-NY), imposes a tax on e-cigarette and other vaping products equal to the amount currently imposed on traditional nicotine products. The revenue from the tax would be used to fund additional health initiatives, including requiring high deductible plans to cover the cost of inhalers and other asthma treatments.

The ***School-Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act (H.R. 2468)***, introduced by Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Representative Roe (R-TN), provides additional preferences for asthma and allergy grants administered by CDC to states that have adopted comprehensive asthma and allergy programs in their public elementary and secondary schools. It creates incentives to certify school nurses, staff, and administrators are prepared to help students with asthma, to ensure these students are able to thrive in a safe school environment.

For any questions about CALC or these bills, please contact Jane Sheehan (JSheehan@familiesusa.org).