

Brophy introduces bill to keep kids safer in school

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Senator Greg Brophy, R-Wray, has introduced a bill (SB11-012) allowing school children to keep their life-saving medications with them at school.

Brophy said he was “appalled” when he discovered how difficult it is, under the current law, for kids to carry their asthma inhalers, allergy medications and other life-saving prescriptions at school. Gerald Keefe, superintendent of the Kit Carson school district, described the existing policy as “lacking common sense.”

The current law requires students to not only get the prescription, but then demonstrate competence in self administering it to a school official. The school official must then meet with the physician who prescribed the medication to formulate a written treatment plan. The student’s parents are also required to submit a written medical authorization signed by the physician and a form releasing the school of liability.

On top of that, the treatment plan is only valid for one school year and must be redone every single year. It does not matter if it is the same student using the same medication year after year.

And it is not just the inconvenience that bothers Brophy: “It scares me to think the children in our state are at risk because of this ridiculous red tape.”

Brophy added, “There is no reason to assume, as the current law does, that every student with a life-saving prescription will abuse that medication. We’re not talking about Vicoden or Valium, we just want our kids to have their inhaler or EpiPen when they need it.”

SB11-012 is scheduled to be heard in the Senate committee on education Thursday, Jan. 27 at 1:30 p.m.