Stefanie Dominguez

Testimony Before the General Assembly Education Committee

March 6, 2024

Regarding SB 287 – AAC Indoor Air Quality in Schools

HB 5347 – AAC Authorization of State Grant Commitments for School Building Projects and Revisions to the School Building Project Statutes

I am a Special Education teacher in Windsor at OE (Oliver Ellsworth School). I am writing to ask for your support for SB 287 and HB 5347 and continued, expedited action on safe air quality in schools.

This fall I had a persistent cough that would not go away, which caused not only discomfort, but immense pain, to the point that I went to the emergency room for the first time in my life.

After visits with various specialists, I found out that I was having an allergic reaction to the mold in our building.

Imagine someone with a peanut allergy being constantly surrounded by peanuts. Leaving for the night or the weekend was not enough to make my reaction stop. I ended up needing an expensive inhaler and appointments with multiple specialists. This would not have happened had I not had the exposure at school. This reaction caused me pain but also caused me to miss days at school because of the coughing fits (it’s impossible to teach for even a short lesson when you are coughing every ten seconds) and pain I was in.

I hope this experience stresses the critical importance of air quality in schools and encourages you to continue pursuing expedited change to support safe air quality in schools.

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