

Oklahoma State Senate

Chuck Hall
Senator

District 20

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Committee Assignments

- Appropriations Subcommittee
- OMES/ ARPA Oversight - Chair
- Appropriations - Vice Chair
- Ag & Rural Affairs - Vice Chair
- Finance
- Health & Human Services
- Judiciary

October 3, 2024

Superintendent Walters,

Given the letter of counsel issued by Attorney General Gentner Drummond, combined with multiple attempts from lawmakers compelling you to follow the intent of the law, you have a clear opportunity and pathway to do the right thing that will benefit everyone.

I am again requesting you follow the law and distribute the funds for the inhaler program as outlined in legislation passed and signed into law in 2023.

The attorney general made it clear that you should act on this as quickly as possible to ensure these life-saving devices are in schools across the state.

There is now no excuse to not execute the delivery of these funds as expeditiously as possible.

My strong recommendation is to follow the legislative intent, the result of your RFI and the counsel of the attorney general and multiple members of the legislature and get this money out to the Brendon McLarty Memorial Foundation, as they are the only organization that offers this service.

Additionally, I would like a detailed accounting of any funds OSDE has distributed for inhalers in the past two years. This is in light of your communications director's statements to the media yesterday, in which he said: "OSDE has been distributing funds for inhalers for the past two years." My concern is the timeline of this statement. The law to provide the \$250,000 for the program only took effect last year. If this statement is accurate, I would also appreciate information on the vendor you used to distribute the inhalers. To my knowledge, the McLarty Foundation is the only entity in the state that provides this service and training on proper inhaler use. I have been in communication with the foundation after reading your spokesman's statement, and they said they are unaware of OSDE distributing any funding for school inhalers.

As I respect and commend your diligence in asking for guidance from the attorney general, I continue to be disappointed in the lack of action as this money has been available for over a year.

Please end the delays and distribute this funding immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "202.1.1 W".

Senator Chuck Hall
Senate Appropriations Chairman