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Dear Senator Collins, Senator Angus King, Representative Chellie Pingree and Representative Bruce Poliquin,

As a school nurse, I am writing to bring your attention to a critical issue impacting the children and families of our state as well as nationally. The parent/guardians of children with life threatening allergies are faced with an enormous cost for their life saving medication, epinephrine auto injector.

Currently, the cost for an epinephrine auto injector can range from $600 to $800 for families without any insurance. Families with high deductible/high copay policies can pay several hundred dollars for the medication. Families that can least afford to pay are often those that have to pay the most. With expiration dates that require yearly replacement, and families needing to have the medication available at home and at school, many families simply cannot afford the cost.

The price of epinephrine injectors has risen dramatically in recent years. The enclosed Bloomberg news article dated September 23, 2015, outlines the marketing history that has lead to the branding of Epi Pens and the meteoric rise in their price and other epinephrine auto injectors.

Attached is a list of school nurses that share this concern. Our hope is for you for you to investigate and provide answers why the cost of epinephrine auto injectors has increased so dramatically.

Sincerely,

Janis Hogan BUS, RN

National Association of School Nurses, Maine Director