On November 13, 2013, President Obama signed into law the School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act. The law authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to give funding preferences to states for asthma-treatment grants if they: maintain an emergency supply of epinephrine (EpiPens), if they permit trained personnel of a school to administer epinephrine, and if they develop a plan for ensuring trained personnel are available to administer epinephrine during all hours of the school day. The measure passed both the House and Senate with a large bipartisan majority.

By the end of the 2014 state legislative sessions, the vast majority of states adopted measures to allow or even require the storage of the emergency medicine. As with the federal legislation, states supported these measures with broad bipartisan support.

The AAO-HNS supported this effort on a federal level and continues to support similar state-based initiatives. Academy members are encouraged to continue tracking epinephrine-related bills in their states and help educate lawmakers on the importance of the issue.

For more information on legislation increasing access to epinephrine in your state, please contact govtaffairs@entnet.org or 703-535-3795.