



February 23, 2016

Re: Emergency Anaphylaxis Treatment Act (S 853)

Submitted Electronically: [SOCIAL SERVICES, MENTAL HEALTH & CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE](#)

Honorable Chairman Spires:

On behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) and the thousands of adults and children living with food allergies in South Carolina (SC), I write to express our support for the Emergency Anaphylaxis Treatment Act (S 853), which would expand access to epinephrine auto-injectors in public places. Epinephrine auto-injectors are used to treat severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis), which can be life-threatening if rapidly developing symptoms are not treated promptly.

AAFA, (www.aafa.org and www.kidswithfoodallergies.org) a not-for-profit organization founded in 1953, is the leading patient organization for people with asthma and allergies, and the oldest asthma and allergy patient group in the world. AAFA is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with asthma and allergic diseases through education, advocacy, and research. AAFA provides practical information, community-based services, support and referrals through a national network of chapters and educational support groups. AAFA's programs support vital research leading to better treatments and understanding of the causes of severe allergies, such as our Anaphylaxis in America™ study, which depicts the current prevalence and characteristics of severe allergies in the US.

Anaphylaxis can be triggered by allergens such as foods, by certain pharmaceuticals or by other situations, such as insect stings. With prompt injection, epinephrine is nearly always effective in halting or slowing the reaction until a person can receive proper medical attention. In situations where a person does not have access to epinephrine (they may not have their prescribed auto-injector with them, or they could be experiencing their first-ever reaction to a certain allergen), the reaction can become life-threatening. Legislation such as the SC Emergency Anaphylaxis Treatment Act can better prepare entities for medical emergencies, and would increase the chances that a person experiencing a severe reaction in a public place could receive the medication necessary to save his or her life.

The SC bill would allow certain public "entities" or businesses (such as restaurants, theaters, sports venues, etc.) to obtain a prescription for epinephrine auto-injectors and to keep the devices for use in allergy emergencies. The bill states that a person who has completed a training program would be able to administer an auto-injector to anyone



experiencing a severe reaction. These are important steps in protecting millions of American adults and children who are at risk of severe life-threatening allergic reactions from food, latex, insect stings/bites, certain medications and other common triggers

South Carolina is one of the 47 states that have already enacted laws to allow or require schools to keep extra epinephrine auto-injectors stored for emergencies. AAFA encourages South Carolina to join the 19 other states who have expanded access to emergency epinephrine into other public places. We support passage of the SC Emergency Anaphylaxis Treatment Act.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at csennett@aafa.org or Meryl Bloomrosen, AAFA's Senior Vice President of Policy, Advocacy and Research at mbloomrosen@aafa.org.

Sincerely,

Cary Sennett, MD, PhD
President and CEO
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America