



May 3, 2021

The Honorable Joanne M. Comerford
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Public
Health
24 Beacon St.
Room 413-C
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Marjorie C. Decker
House Chair, Joint Committee on Public
Health
24 Beacon St.
Room 130
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Susan L. Moran
Senate Vice Chair, Joint Committee on
Public Health
24 Beacon St.
Room 413-C
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Brian W. Murray
House Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Public
Health
24 Beacon St.
Room 130
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Comerford, Vice Chair Moran, Chair Decker, and Vice Chair Murray,

On behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) and the more than 6 million children living with life-threatening food allergies, I am writing to express AAFA's strong support for H.2222/S.1498, an Act enabling trained school personnel to administer life saving epinephrine treatment and S.1462, an Act relative to the storage of epinephrine at schools.

AAFA is the leading patient organization for people with asthma and allergies, and the oldest asthma and allergy patient organization in the world. Kids With Food Allergies, a division of AAFA, offers tools, education, and community to families and children coping with food allergies across the country.

Food allergies are affecting a growing number of American children and adults. About 1 in 13 children in the U.S. have food allergies, which means about two per classroom. Exposure to an allergen can cause severe reactions, including anaphylaxis and, in rare cases, death. Because there is no cure for food allergies, awareness and preparedness are key for protecting health and saving lives, especially in the school setting.

Epinephrine is the only treatment for anaphylaxis and is only available with a prescription. Children who have severe food allergies need epinephrine with them at all times to promptly treat anaphylaxis. 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. The protection H.2222/S.1498 and



S.1462 provide to treat someone in a school setting suffering anaphylaxis, even for their very first allergic reaction, is life-saving.

One preventable death is one too many. Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We are grateful for your concern for the safety of those managing food allergies.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Mendez
President and Chief Executive Officer
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

CC: The Honorable Bruce J. Ayers
24 Beacon St.
Room 167
Boston, MA, 02133

The Honorable Patrick M. O'Connor
24 Beacon St.
Room 419
Boston, MA, 02133

The Honorable Jason M. Lewis
24 Beacon St.
Room 511-B
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