



**The Greater Ocean City, Maryland
Chamber of Commerce, Inc.**

**TESTIMONY OFFERED ON BEHALF OF
THE GREATER OCEAN CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

IN SUPPORT OF

SB 477 Public Health – Emergency Use Auto–Injectable Epinephrine Program – Revisions

BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

February 28, 2020

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 950 regional businesses and organizations strongly supports **SB 477 Public Health – Emergency Use Auto–Injectable Epinephrine Program – Revisions**.

Lives could be saved by making available for administration, auto-injectable epinephrine for individuals who are experiencing anaphylaxis when a physician or emergency medical services are not immediately available. Given the growth in the number of allergies among the general population, requiring an epi-pen to be onsite is in our opinion a good idea. With the lack of communication in today's world, known allergies and specific requests may not be properly received by those preparing meals.

While we do support the bill, it is imperative that the business and its employees are provided with immunity from civil liability as noted in the current language.

Restaurants have to have proper training approved by MDH (There was a bill passed similar to this in which we used the language from to draft this legislation –HB 1743 in 2018 that was approved by the Governor. This allowed epi pen usage in higher ed institutions) This bill SB 477 expands this authority to Restaurants.

An individual with food allergies that does not have access to an epi pen could mean a life or death situation., also it is voluntary. The reaction that occurs is called anaphylaxis- closing of the throat. The auto-injectable epinephrine aids the individual suffering from this reaction. This bill is a preventative measure to help these individuals who suffer from food allergies.

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The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce Membership respectfully requests a Favorable Report for **SB 477 Public Health – Emergency Use Auto-Injectable Epinephrine Program – Revisions**. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the position of the Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce at 410-213-0144 ext 102.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MPursel', is positioned above the typed name.

Melanie A. Pursel, M.S.

President & CEO