



February 20, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Finance
Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health and Government
Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for SB477 and HB1462, Public Health - Emergency Use Auto-Injectable Epinephrine Program - Revisions

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Senate and House Committees,

Allergy & Asthma Network, a national nonprofit dedicated to protecting and improving the health of people with allergies, asthma and related conditions, supports bills SB477 and HB1462 which authorize a food service facility to purchase, acquire, and possess epinephrine auto-injectors for use by trained non-medical staff (with immunity protections) for emergency treatment of a person experiencing anaphylactic symptoms.

Severe food, insect venom, medication and latex allergies can be deceiving and lead to an anaphylaxis emergency. There are approximately 700 deaths annually due to anaphylaxis and data shows death from anaphylaxis occurs more often when the individual is away from home and there is either a delay before epinephrine is administered or it is not given at all. Immediate access to this lifesaving medication is critical.

The [*School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act of 2013*](#) led to legislation in 49 states ensuring students with severe allergies had access to emergency supplies of epinephrine auto-injectors. In recent years, states have expanded the range of organizations permitted to maintain these emergency supplies. Currently 36 states* have laws or guidance authorizing public entities (e.g., restaurants, recreation camps, youth sports leagues, amusement parks, sports arenas and daycare facilities) to purchase, acquire and possess epinephrine auto-injectors for use by a trained employee, volunteer or agent for emergency treatment of a person experiencing anaphylactic symptoms for the first time or does not have their own epinephrine auto-injector available.

*States authorizing public entity use of epinephrine include:

Alaska	Georgia	Maine	Pennsylvania
Alabama	Idaho	Nevada	Rhode Island
Arkansas	Illinois	New Hampshire	South Carolina
Arizona	Indiana	New Jersey	Tennessee
California	Iowa	New York	Texas
Colorado	Kentucky	North Carolina	Utah
Connecticut	Michigan	Ohio	Washington
District of Columbia	Minnesota	Oklahoma	West Virginia
Florida	Missouri	Oregon	Wisconsin



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Having epinephrine available in public places helps create safer communities and protects some of our most vulnerable citizens. We urge the state of Maryland to be proactive and adopt a law allowing food service facilities to stock and maintain undesignated epinephrine – the only first-line treatment for life-threatening allergic reactions.

Please contact me or our Director of Advocacy Charmayne Anderson at 703-641-9595 to learn more and visit us at AllergyAsthmaNetwork.org. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tonya A. Winders". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tonya A. Winders
President and CEO