

February 28, 2020

Senate Finance Committee

Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Reverend Roger Locklear and I am a pastor and I reside in Joppa, Maryland.

I appear before you in support of SB 477 Emergency use of Auto Injectable Epinephrine.

Food reactions are a very serious and dangerous thing. In 2005 I was at a Shrimp Feast having dinner with my wife and some friends and suddenly began to experience some unusual feeling of discomfort in my throat accompanied by itching on my body and in the palms of my hands. I had never had any food reactions and I did not know that I was, for the first time in my life, experiencing a reaction to the shrimp I was eating. At first the reaction was mild. I took some Benadryl that someone had with them. The situation was remedied. A month or so later I was at a lunch meeting and once again I experienced the same thing but the attack seemed somewhat more intense than the first. My colleagues I was with scrambled to find Benadryl and could not. I was hurried to a car and escorted quickly to an area drug store and the situation was remedied. Still not making any strides to making an appointment to see a physician for this malady I again experienced a reaction after having lunch and this time the reaction was more intense and I was immediately rushed to the emergency room. The emergency room attending physician informed me that I was experiencing a food reaction and I was administered medications to assist with the reaction. The emergency room doctor informed me that with each new food reaction the responses intensify and instructed me to make an appointment with my primary care physician.

After seeing my primary physician, and having testing, I was officially diagnosed with an allergy to seafood.

My doctor prescribed an Epinephrine pen or an "Epi" pen and instructed me to carry it at all times. There have been several occasions where I have left my epi pen home or in the car and experienced a reaction to food in a restaurant. Once I was at an Olive Garden Restaurant for lunch and even after informing the waitress that I had a severe allergy to seafood I was given food that had either been cross contaminated with seafood or had seafood in its base. I had no epi and had to be rushed to an area emergency center. This particular time my reaction was a severe life threatening reaction and because I did not have an epi pen readily available I thought I was going to die because my throat almost completely closed. This has happened on several occasions through the years. Food allergic reactions are very serious and very dangerous and this is why I am in complete support of SB 477.