



January 25, 2022

The Honorable Julie Palakovich Carr  
Maryland State House of Delegates  
Annapolis, MD

The Honorable Clarence K. Lam  
Maryland State Senate  
Annapolis, MD

**Re: Support for Public Schools - Anaphylactic Food Allergies - Guidelines and Requirements (HB 154/SB 95)**

Dear Delegate Carr and Senator Lam,

Allergy & Asthma Network, a national nonprofit dedicated to protecting and improving the health of people with allergies, asthma and related conditions, supports HB 154/SB 95 – relating to school guidelines to protect students with severe food allergies. This bill will ensure a safe and effective educational environment for students with food allergies.

There are 32 million Americans living with severe allergies to food, insect venom, medication and latex. Many of them are at risk for anaphylaxis (a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction). Anaphylaxis causes approximately 1,500 deaths annually. Today, one in 13 children has food allergies, or roughly two in every classroom. Nearly 40 percent of these children have already experienced a severe or life-threatening allergic reaction. Severe allergic reactions should always be handled as a medical emergency. A Food Allergy Management and Prevention Plan is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as best practice in their Voluntary Guidelines (See [https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/foodallergies/pdf/13\\_243135\\_a\\_food\\_allergy\\_web\\_508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/foodallergies/pdf/13_243135_a_food_allergy_web_508.pdf)).

We urge you and your colleagues in the Maryland General Assembly to move swiftly and pass HB 154/SB 95, as adoption is vital to assist children make the transition between a safe home environment and school and will prepare the school staff to respond appropriately when an emergency allergic reaction occurs.

Please contact me or our Director of Advocacy Charmayne Anderson at 800-878-4403 if you have any questions and to learn more about Allergy & Asthma Network, visit [www.AllergyAsthmaNetwork.org](http://www.AllergyAsthmaNetwork.org).

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