



January 23, 2023

Maryland State Senate
Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support of SB 120 / HB 78 with Amendments: Public Schools - Food Allergies Guidelines

Members of the Maryland Senate's, Education, Energy & Environment Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1500 members, many with a variety of disabilities, fully support these guidelines for food allergens within public school settings listed within SB 120/ HB 78.

Many of our children have a variety of allergies to foods and we trust that the MGA is doing all that it can to protect our children during school hours and on school grounds. And as an issue of equity within the education space, we trust that you all will approve a list of standards, and training that will help to safeguard students safety in all public school buildings. But BOE members are not health experts and generally speaking, do not possess expertise in this area.

Therefore, we would recommend that board of education members, in conjunction with educators, school staff, school building administrators and school medical staff to partner with either the state of Maryland or their local county health departments to develop food safety protocols within all school settings. While working in consultation, issues like cross contamination as well as safety protocols are something that should be discussed, and guidance developed and adopted by all Maryland public schools to ensure student safety during the school day and all school sponsored events.

The future of Maryland's students and their futures requires your support today and into the future of Maryland. Please let us support ALL of our students today, and into the future.

Please support SB 120 / HB 78 and we ask the committee to return a favorable report with these amendments.

Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo | richceruolo@gmail.com
Parent, Lead Advocate and Director of Public Policy
Parent Advocacy Consortium (Find us on Facebook/Meta)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentAdvocacyConsortium>