



TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair  
Members, House Ways and Means Committee  
The Honorable Julie Palakovich Carr

FROM: Christine K. Krone  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
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DATE: January 24, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 78 – *Public Schools – Anaphylactic Food Allergies – Guidelines*

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The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of support for House Bill 78.

House Bill 78 requires each county board of education to adopt, implement, and publish guidelines in accordance with the Maryland State school health service guidelines to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common areas; to publish the guidelines on its website; and lastly requires each public school to develop a system to disclose, reasonably in advance, the foods served in the school and the major food allergens contained in the food.

Food allergy is estimated to affect approximately 1 in 25 school-aged children and is the most common trigger of anaphylaxis in this age group. School food-allergy management requires strategies to reduce the risk of ingestion of the allergen as well as procedures to recognize and treat allergic reactions and anaphylaxis. In 2009, the Maryland State Department of Education published voluntary guidance on the management of students at risk for anaphylactic reaction and some school districts implemented the recommendations. This bill will strengthen current guidance by requiring all school districts to have strong, clear, written policies to prevent and address anaphylaxis. For these reasons, MDAAP supports House Bill 78.

**For more information call:**

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