
MARYLAND ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS



Date: January 24, 2023

Bill: House Bill 78 - Public Schools - Anaphylactic Food Allergies - Guidelines

Committee: House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair

Position: **Support**

The Maryland Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (MAND) represents nearly 1200 Registered & Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionists in the state who work in a variety of facilities and agencies to provide education related to nutrition for the benefit of the health our citizens. We would like to support **House Bill 78 - Public Schools - Anaphylactic Food Allergies – Guidelines**.

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death. Since it is unpredictable and potentially fatal, prompt recognition and treatment are vital to maximize a positive outcome. The occurrence of anaphylaxis is increasing across all ages in the United States, with increased risk of worse outcome in teenagers/young adults and in those with comorbid conditions such as asthma.

Gaps in the assessment of patient-specific risk factors, identification and prevention of triggers, recognition of signs/symptoms, and pharmacologic treatment of anaphylaxis have been identified at the physician and caregiver/patient level. This is a well written bill that covers so many issues related to this serious problem for students who experience anaphylaxis in school.

We urge you to **Support House Bill 78** for the good of the thousands of students that are affected by Anaphylactic Food Allergies.

Thank you for your consideration.

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