

Testimony in Support of Bill 1195 - Elijah's Law for Maryland

To the Honorable Ways & Means Committee Members of the Maryland Legislature,

My name is Thomas Silvera, and I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Bill 1195, known as Elijah's Law, currently under consideration in the Maryland Legislature. As someone who has been deeply impacted by the ramifications of food allergies in childcare environments, I cannot overstate the importance of this legislation.

Elijah's Law is more than just a bill; it is a beacon of hope for families across Maryland. It represents a commitment to the safety and well-being of our children, ensuring that childcare providers are adequately prepared to prevent, recognize, and respond to life-threatening allergic reactions.

The need for such legislation is clear and urgent. Food allergies are a growing public health concern, affecting millions of children nationwide. These allergies can lead to severe and potentially fatal reactions, known as anaphylaxis, which require immediate treatment. Unfortunately, many childcare providers lack the necessary training and resources to effectively manage these emergencies, putting our children's lives at risk.

Elijah's Law addresses this critical gap by requiring all childcare facilities in Maryland to develop and implement comprehensive anaphylaxis policies and procedures. This includes training staff on the identification and avoidance of allergens, the recognition of allergic reaction symptoms, and the prompt administration of epinephrine—an essential lifesaving treatment.

This legislation is named in memory of my son, Elijah-Alavi Silvera, whose tragic passing from an anaphylactic reaction highlighted the dire consequences of inadequate allergy safety protocols in childcare settings. Elijah's story is a heart-wrenching reminder of the risks children with allergies face every day. By enacting Elijah's Law, we can prevent other families from experiencing such an unimaginable loss.

I urge you to consider the lives that will be saved and the families that will be protected through this law. Elijah's Law is a testament to what we can achieve when we prioritize the health and safety of our children above all else.

I am grateful for the opportunity to share my perspective on this vital issue. I implore you to pass Bill 1195, ensuring that Maryland becomes a safer place for all children, especially those living with life-threatening allergies.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to the children of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Thomas Silvera