

2/18/2026

Good Afternoon/Good Evening,

My name is Kimya Davani. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter in support of SB219.

My son choked on a soft shelled bean taco while we were eating at the dinner table. He went silent while eating and had a facial expression of horror. We started the rotation of the heimlich maneuver and back slaps right away. I'll never forget the feeling of being helpless that I could not dislodge the food with my heimlich technique but also thinking, my mom is putting together the airway clearance device now and there is hope before he dies. Fortunately, after about the 6th heimlich the food was dislodged.

My friend's daughter also choked the year before this. She turned blue and when the heimlich continued to fail, she used the airway clearance device and she was finally able to breathe.

Permanent brain damage starts after 4 minutes without oxygen. This is often not enough time to receive help from emergency services. Typically, all hope lies with the people witnessing the choking.

The heimlich maneuver fails 14% of the time and this rate is higher if the person performing the action is not trained.

When the heimlich fails, the airway clearance device is the next tool, and only tool, that we have to rescue a person before they die.

For people who have disabilities, if they're in a wheel chair, pregnant, elderly in retirement and hospice homes, and people recovering from injuries like back surgery, the heimlich maneuver is not possible to perform.

The airway clearance device with three masks costs around \$70. The device lasts a lifetime. The replacement masks cost around \$6 and it is recommended to be replaced every 3 years. This is an inexpensive intervention that can save a life.

I support SB219 so that every child in school has a chance to survive if the heimlich maneuver fails or is not able to be performed. I support this Bill so that no one is left with the life long guilt that they could not save a choking child.

Thank you for your time,
Kimya Davani, VMD