

HB 181 2026 Maryland

FAV in support of HB 181 MD

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My name is Elena Christopher and I am the proud parent of Skye Cushing, food allergy sufferer and policy advocate for House Bill 181.

Do you know what the parents of food allergy sufferers want? We want to eat at more restaurants!

I have two children and they both suffer from life threatening food allergies. I assure you they are both tired of my cooking.

We yearn to safely eat at restaurants. However most of our restaurant experiences are challenging and put my kids at risk. There is because there is no standard food allergy labeling in Maryland.

In the limited cases we do go to restaurants, our normal course is to ask the servers if menu items contain food allergens. The most common responses are “I don’t know” or “I don’t think so” or “Let me check”. No one is happy in this scenario. The servers are given an impossible task of serving as a go-between the kitchen and our table with a significant burden of keeping my kids alive. And even when we do get assurances that the food is safe, it often is not. We can’t dine with confidence. There has to be a better way.

This better way is House Bill 181. Having accessible food allergy labeling will allow potential diners like Skye and the other more than 600,000 people with food allergies in the state of Maryland to dine safely in restaurants. This bill supports BOTH those with food allergies and restaurants who want to expand their dining population.

Please me in supporting House Bill 181 and let food allergy sufferers dine safe in Maryland!