



Senator Brian Benjamin  
917 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247

May 14, 2019

Dear Senator Benjamin,

On behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) and the more than 15 million Americans living with life-threatening food allergies, I am writing to express AAFA's strong support for S218-A, Elijah's Law.

AAFA is the leading patient organization for people with asthma and allergies, and the oldest asthma and allergy patient organization in the world. Kids with Food Allergies, a division of AAFA, offers tools, education, and community to families and children coping with food allergies across the country.

Food allergies are affecting a growing number of American children and adults. Between four and six percent of all children in the U.S. have food allergies. Exposure to the allergen can cause severe reactions, including anaphylaxis and, in rare cases, death. Because there is no cure for food allergies, awareness and preparedness are key for protecting health and saving lives.

Food allergies are most prevalent among young children. Yet, as you are aware, New York State's requirements for schools to have anaphylactic policies currently only apply to K-12 settings. Elijah's law would apply important allergy requirements to all child day care providers. Providers would have to take concrete steps to manage food allergies for the children in their care, including developing emergency protocols, communication plans for discussing food allergies with children, and plans for preventing exposure.

One preventable death of a young child is one too many. These requirements are evidence-based and will reduce reactions and risk for young children across the state. What's more, they will provide peace of mind to all of the families managing food allergies in New York.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We are grateful for your concern for the safety of New York children and families managing food allergies.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Mendez  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America



Assemblymember Al Taylor  
633 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, New York 12248

May 14, 2019

Dear Assemblymember Taylor,

On behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) and the more than 15 million Americans living with life-threatening food allergies, I am writing to express AAFA's strong support for A6971-A, Elijah's Law.

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