



April 20, 2023

Chair Chris Holden
Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Support of The Muñoz SAFE Act- Assembly Bill 1651

Dear Chair:

On behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), I would like to express our **strong support for AB1651, the Muñoz SAFE (Student Allergy Framework for Emergencies) Act**. This measure would ensure accessible epinephrine during emergencies, greater training and, most importantly, a wider net of safety for our students with food allergies.

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.

Research estimates that approximately thirty-three million Americans suffer from food allergies. Nearly six million of those are from our most vulnerable population, our children (roughly one in thirteen). Over 40 percent of children have experienced *a severe reaction*. In the last decade, the number of food allergies in children has increased by 50 percent. Therefore, the need to help ensure the



health and safety of kids in CA Schools with life threatening allergies has come to the forefront.

The most powerful tool for a person with a food allergy is ensuring that they receive lifesaving intervention through epinephrine use in a timely fashion during an anaphylactic reaction. In addition, having a stronger and larger network of trained individuals to administer epinephrine ensures greater security for our most vulnerable population during an emergency. This bill will help make California schools a safer place for all students.

Therefore, **we strongly support the Muñoz SAFE Act AB 1651, and urge all CA Legislators to do so as well.** Should you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

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