



Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America

March 15, 2024

Environment Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America support of HB 5349

Dear Chair Lopes, Chair Gresko, Vice Chair Hochadel, and Vice Chair Palm,

On behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), I am writing in support of HB 5349, an act concerning the performance of a pollen count. AAFA is dedicated to saving lives and reducing the burden of disease for people with asthma and allergies through support, advocacy, education, and research.

As noted in our [2024 Allergy Capitals™ report](#), allergic conditions are among the most common medical conditions – affecting over 100 million people in the United States. Due to climate change, growing seasons start earlier and last longer than they did just 30 years ago. Some parts of the United States now experience pollen (tree, grass, or weed) year-round. Warmer temperatures also trap heat in urban areas, increasing air pollution and stimulating pollen production.

Pollen reports are valuable tools in helping people manage their seasonal allergies. But not all reports are equal. Some reports are pollen counts and some are pollen forecasts. Pollen counts are taken from samples of pollen at monitoring sites (using pollen counters or sensors) and are based on actual data. Pollen forecasts are predictions of expected pollen counts based on historical data. Pollen monitoring sites can be helpful for many purposes, such as helping diagnose and treat allergies, studying the impact of climate change, and producing crop forecasts.



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People in Connecticut will benefit from this bill and the establishment of a program to monitor and report accurate pollen counts. We appreciate your consideration and please contact me at kmendez@aafa.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

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