



Memorandum in Support

A6425

December 21, 2023

Assembly Member O'Donnell

AN ACT to amend the insurance law, in relation to requiring health insurance plans to provide coverage for epinephrine auto-injector devices

On behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), we submit this Memo in Support of the above mentioned bill.

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.

In the U.S., food allergies impact 16 million adults and 4 million children. For people living with allergies, exposures to food, as well as bee stings, latex, or other allergens, can trigger a severe reaction called anaphylaxis. Nearly one in 50 people in the U.S. are at risk for anaphylaxis. It can occur suddenly and get worse fast. It's important to give epinephrine right away.

Epinephrine is the only treatment for anaphylaxis and is only available with a prescription. Children and adults who have severe food allergies need epinephrine with them at all times to promptly treat anaphylaxis. Individuals and families managing food allergies often bear a heavy and rising cost burden for epinephrine auto-injectors (EAI).¹

AAFA supports policies that ensure that affordable epinephrine is available to as many people, in as many places, as necessary to reverse severe allergic reactions

¹ Pepper et al., "The High Cost of Epinephrine Autoinjectors and Possible Alternatives." J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract. 2017 May - Jun;5(3):665-668.



and prevent allergy-related deaths. A6425 would provide New York residents improved affordability and accessibility of EAI and is potentially life-saving.

One preventable death is one too many. Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We are grateful for your concern for the safety of those managing food allergies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kenneth Mendez'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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