



March 21, 2024

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
Chair of the Committee on Education
1020 N Street, Room 159
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2317 (Nguyen) Child daycare facilities: anaphylactic policy- SUPPORT

Dear Chair Muratsuchi,

On behalf of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) and the more than 20 million Americans living with life-threatening food allergies, I am writing to express AAFA's strong support for AB 2714, Zachy's Food Allergy Safety Treatments (FAST) Act. 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.

This bill is inspired by youth Food Allergy Advocate Zacky Muñoz and would ensure that schools have access to the latest FDA-approved epinephrine delivery methods to better support students with severe allergic reactions.

About 5.8 percent of children and adolescents have food allergies in the U.S., which is the equivalent at least one student in every California classroom.^{1,2} Exposure to an 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.

Epinephrine is the only treatment for anaphylaxis. California currently requires that school districts provide **epinephrine auto-injectors** for use by school nurses or trained personnel to provide emergency medical aid to students or staff believed to be suffering from an anaphylactic reaction ([Education Code, Section 49414](#)). This is

¹ Zablotsky, B., Black, L.I., & Akinbami, L.J.(2023). *NCHS Data Brief, no 459: Diagnosed allergic conditions in children aged 0-17 years: United States, 2021*. National Center for Health Statistics. <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:123250>

² *National Teacher and Principal Survey, 2017-2018*. National Center for Education Statistics. https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ntps/tables/ntps1718_fltable06_t1s.asp.



an excellent policy, but it was enacted at a time when epinephrine was only available in devices that use needles.

There are and will be innovations in needle-free epinephrine delivery. The FDA will play its role in determining the safety and efficacy of these systems, but once approved, California school districts should have the option of determining which delivery systems to provide for use in schools.

Zacky's Food Allergy Safety Treatments Act will ensure that the most up-to-date epinephrine delivery devices are available as an option for schools. Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We are grateful for your concern for the safety of California children and families 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