



January 28, 2025

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

Re: SUPPORT AB 228- Zachy's FAST Act - Sanchez

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 228, 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 all 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_fitable06_t1s.asp.



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

AAFA recently released our 2025 [State Honor Roll of Asthma and Allergy Policies for Schools](#) which identifies the states with the best public policies for people with asthma, food allergies, anaphylaxis and related allergic diseases in U.S. elementary, middle and high schools.³ California received Honorable Mention in the 2025 report, but did not make the Honor Roll.

The report underscores the critical importance of modernizing emergency stock medication policies to create safer learning environments for children with food allergies and asthma. Specifically, the report highlights the need to ensure schools have access to all FDA-approved epinephrine, such as epinephrine nasal spray.

There have been and will continue to be innovations in the delivery of epinephrine. 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 allow schools to access all forms of FDA-approved epinephrine and will help protect students during emergencies now and in the future. 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,

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

³ Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, (2025). 2025 State Honor Roll™ Report.
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