



May 20, 2025

The Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis  
400 S Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL

**Re: SIGNATURE OF SB 1514**

Dear Governor DeSantis,

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 SB 1514. 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 would ensure that schools have access to additional FDA-approved epinephrine delivery methods to better support students with severe allergic reactions while at school. This bill would also require that each school board and charter school to train "an adequate" number of school personnel to know how to respond to allergic reactions swiftly.

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 Florida classroom.<sup>1,2</sup> 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. Florida currently allows school districts to stock and administer epinephrine auto-injectors. This is an excellent

---

<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> *National Teacher and Principal Survey, 2017-2018*. National Center for Education Statistics. [https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ntps/tables/ntps1718\\_fitable06\\_t1s.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ntps/tables/ntps1718_fitable06_t1s.asp).



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.<sup>3</sup>

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, Florida school districts should have the option of determining which delivery systems to provide for use in schools.

This Act will also allow schools to have the tools to respond to allergic reactions. In episodes of anaphylaxis, every second counts. It is essential that school personnel are not only authorized but also adequately trained to recognize the signs of a severe allergic reaction and to administer epinephrine quickly and correctly. Comprehensive training fosters confidence and competence—both of which are critical to saving lives in emergency situations.

We are grateful for your concern for the safety of Florida children and families managing food allergies and urge your signature of this bill into law.

Sincerely,

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

---

<sup>3</sup> Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, (2025). 2025 State Honor Roll™ Report.  
Retrieved from [statehonorroll.org](https://statehonorroll.org).