



May 22, 2025

The Honorable Amy Paulin
LOB 823
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Chairwoman Paulin,

We, the undersigned organizations, write today on behalf of the 1.1 million New York residents living with a food allergy to express our strong support of A771.^{1,2} This bill would help prevent the development of food allergies and require insurance coverage for early egg and peanut allergen introduction dietary supplements for infants at no cost.

Being diagnosed with a food allergy is a life-altering experience. It can be frightening and stressful for families to learn the required changes to diet and lifestyle. Every 10 seconds, food allergy sends a patient to the emergency room. There is no way to prevent an allergic reaction other than avoiding the allergen and carrying emergency medication in the instance of accidental exposure. This is why prevention of disease is essential for the continuing health of the New York state population.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023, January 26). *More than a quarter of U.S. adults and children have at least one allergy*. National Center for Health Statistics.

² U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). *National population totals and components of change: 2020–2023*. U.S. Department of Commerce.

This avenue of prevention is evidence-based and rooted in scientific research. The data from longitudinal research shows that early peanut exposure reduces the risk of developing peanut allergy in at-risk infants. In 2015, the Learning Early About Peanut Allergy (LEAP) study transformed the guidance that pediatricians and allergists provide to patients about introducing peanut foods to children at high risk for peanut allergy.³ The LEAP study involved 640 infants susceptible to peanut allergy. Babies ages 4 – 10 months were split into two groups: one avoided peanut foods, while the other group was given peanut several times each week. The LEAP study shows that early introduction of peanuts significantly decreased the frequency and development of peanut allergy among high-risk children. The 2021 Guidelines from AAAAI and ACAAI also include introduction of egg at 4–6 months to prevent egg allergy, which is supported by five clinical trials.⁴

The passage of this bill can help prevent some children from developing food allergies, thus we urge the legislature to pass A771. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA)

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³ [Randomized Trial of Peanut Consumption in Infants at Risk for Peanut Allergy | NEJM](#). George du Toit, M.B., B.Ch, et al. February 26, 2015. New England Journal of Medicine. 372: 803 – 813.

⁴ Fleischer, D. M., Chan, E. S., Venter, C., Spergel, J. M., Abrams, E. M., Stukus, D., Groetch, M., Shaker, M., & Greenhawt, M. (2021). *A consensus approach to the primary prevention of food allergy through nutrition: Guidance from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology; American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology; and the Canadian Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology* [PDF]. American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology.



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