



**Senate Committee on Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs on
Public Schools - Anaphylactic Food Allergies - Guidelines and Requirements (SB 95)
Maryland General Assembly
February 1, 2022**

Allergy & Asthma Network, a national nonprofit dedicated to protecting and improving the health of people with allergies, asthma and related conditions, supports SB 95 – relating to school guidelines and regulations to protect students with severe food allergies.

There are 32 million Americans living with severe allergies to food, insect venom, medication and latex. Many of them are at risk for anaphylaxis (a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction). Anaphylaxis causes approximately 1,500 deaths annually. Today, one in 13 children has food allergies, or roughly two in every classroom. Nearly 40 percent of these children have already experienced a severe or life-threatening allergic reaction. Severe allergic reactions should always be handled as a medical emergency. A Food Allergy Management and Prevention Plan is recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as best practice in their Voluntary Guidelines (See https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/foodallergies/pdf/13_243135_a_food_allergy_web_508.pdf).

To further protect school-aged children who experience anaphylaxis and address preventable deaths caused by food allergies, Maryland passed a law in 2012 authorizing school personnel to administer epinephrine to any student who is perceived to be experiencing anaphylaxis regardless if the student has a prescription. This led to the [School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act](#) signed into law in 2013. The law provides a funding incentive to states that enact laws allowing school personnel to stock and administer emergency supplies of epinephrine.

Comprehensive food allergy guidelines ensure a safe and effective educational environment for students with severe food allergies. They complement the required training to recognize the symptoms of anaphylaxis and administering epinephrine.

We urge the Senate Committee to move swiftly and pass SB 95. Adoption is vital to help children make the transition between a safe home environment and school. It will prepare the school staff to respond appropriately when a severe or life-threatening allergic reaction occurs.

We appreciate your consideration and hope this legislation becomes law in the state of Maryland.