



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2552		DATE: 2/20/2024	
COMMITTEE: Healthcare Reform			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ADAM RINEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: atr_xc@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2024 9:27 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
Please help me in supporting this bill to keep our kids with food allergies safe.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ALISSA PERRETZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: aliperretz@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 8:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My son is nearly four and has multiple severe food allergies. I quit my job to work at his daycare so I can keep him safe. Please pass this bill so my som and children like him (plus the parents) don't have to live in constant fear.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA TOWERMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: amanda.towerman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 9:03 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

My 3 year old son has allergies to dairy, egg, peanut, and tree nuts. We never thought we'd have a kid with allergies, let alone so many. This law would help him avoid his allergens in school. Thank you for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 11:58 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HEATHER SHACKELFORD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: hdshackelford728@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2024 4:17 PM	

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As a mom who has sever alpha gal and who has a child who has allergies/sensitivities, it is beyond difficult for us to go places. Lunches aren't appropriate for kids with allergies therefor they have lunches from home. Some homes cannot afford this. That isn't the end of it. Children with alpha gal or other allergies may be severely fume reactive. This means you cannot be in the same room, sitting beside someone, or building as someone with that food allergy. The current solution, remove the kid or person. This creates mass anxiety and depression, removing them from their support systems. Please remember that they already cannot go out to stores, birthday parties, etc. Lets not allow this to happen at school/daycare facilities/private schools/etc. It is hard to understand if you do not have a true allergy. Its life changing and so unfair for these kiddos/adults. This bill may also be beneficial for teachers/parents who have allergies. I personally have fume reactive alpha gal, which is the same as other fume reactive allergies. We already do not have a support system that gets it. Please make a change!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEN GREENSTREET		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jen@jlyfilms.org		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2024 5:39 PM

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In my work on "May Contain: My Life," a docudrama series that delves into the complex and often misunderstood world of food allergies, I've had the honor of sharing not only the personal challenges and triumphs of those living with this condition but also the profound stories of resilience and advocacy that emerge in the wake of tragedy. Among these powerful narratives are those of Dina Hawthorn and Thomas Silvera, who have turned their profound grief into a force for change following the heartbreaking loss of their son, Elijah, due to a preventable allergic reaction. As a mother to a daughter with a tree nut allergy, I've learned the critical importance of awareness, preparedness, and community support in managing food allergies. Dina and Thomas's journey is a central part of our series, highlighting their transformation from grieving parents to leading advocates for food allergy safety. Their efforts were instrumental in the enactment of Elijah's Law in New York, a landmark legislation requiring childcare facilities to implement stronger protections for children with food allergies. I am reaching out to you, the esteemed legislators of Missouri, to emphasize the urgent need for our state to follow in the footsteps of New York and adopt Elijah's Law. This legislation is not merely regulatory—it's a lifeline for families and a testament to what can be achieved when grief is channeled into advocacy. By endorsing Elijah's Law, we have the opportunity to prevent future tragedies and ensure that no other family has to endure the loss of a child due to a lack of awareness or preparedness in managing food allergies. The stories of Jerome Bettis, August Maturo, Ava Kolker, and many others featured in "May Contain: My Life" serve to elevate the conversation around food allergies from individual concerns to a collective societal responsibility. However, it's the activism of Dina Hawthorn and Thomas Silvera that embodies the spirit of this legislation—turning personal loss into a nationwide call for action. To the legislators of Missouri, I urge you to recognize the significance of Elijah's Law and the impact it can have on the lives of children with food allergies in our state. Let's honor the memory of Elijah and the advocacy work of his parents by making Missouri a safer place for all children. By enacting this law, we not only protect our most vulnerable citizens but also affirm our commitment to a more inclusive, aware, and compassionate society.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KENNETH MENDEZ		PHONE NUMBER: 202-466-7643	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ASTHMA AND ALLERGY FOUNDATION OF AMERICA		TITLE: PRESIDENT AND CEO	
ADDRESS: 1235 S CLARK STREET, STE 305			
CITY: ARLINGTON		STATE: VA	ZIP: 22202
EMAIL: jennar@aafa.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2024 8:50 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Dear Chair Haden, Vice Chair Stinnett, and Ranking Member Lewis, 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 HB 2552, Elijah's Law. This bill is named in honor of Elijah Silvera who passed away at age 3 while enrolled in a day care program in Harlem in November 2017. Despite having a well-documented severe dairy allergy, Elijah was given a grilled cheese sandwich by an employee. Elijah went into severe anaphylactic shock and died. 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. Food allergies are affecting a growing number of American children and adults. Over 7 percent of all children in the U.S. have food allergies, with infants and toddlers ages 0-4 having a higher rate than any other age group. Exposure to the 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. In Missouri, Elijah's law would apply important allergy requirements to all child care providers. Providers would have to take concrete steps to manage food allergies for the children in their care, including developing emergency protocols, plans for preventing exposure, and plans for appropriate treatment should anaphylaxis occur. Epinephrine is the only treatment for anaphylaxis. Young children in Missouri who have severe food allergies always need access to epinephrine to promptly treat anaphylaxis and a trained adult who can administer it. One preventable death of a young child is one too many. These requirements are evidence-based and will reduce reactions and risk for young children across the state. What's more, they will provide peace of mind to all of the families managing food allergies in Missouri. Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We are grateful for your concern for the safety of Missouri children and families managing food allergies. Sincerely, Kenneth Mendez President and Chief Executive Officer Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: RYANA PARKS-SHAW		PHONE NUMBER: 816-513-6521	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CITY OF KC CITY COUNCIL		TITLE: MAYOR PRO TEM	
ADDRESS: 414 E 12TH ST			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64106
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: TASHAYLA PERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 913-302-3098
REPRESENTING: ASTHMA AND ALLERGY FOUNDATION OF AMERICA		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/20/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: THOMAS SILVERA		PHONE NUMBER: 718-314-5720
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ELIJAH-ALAVI FOUNDATION		TITLE: CO FOUNDER/ VP
ADDRESS: 997 NORTH 32ND STREET		
CITY: ALLENTOWN		STATE: PA
		ZIP: 18104
EMAIL: tsilvera@elijahalavifoundation.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2024 3:56 PM

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Esteemed Members of the Committee I am writing on behalf of the Elijah Alavi Foundation advocating for child health and safety. I fully support HB2552. Suggest some changes to better align, with Elijahs Law providing thorough protection for infants and toddlers with food allergies. Firstly I propose including a requirement for training for childcare providers. This training should emphasize recognizing signs in infants and toddlers empowering caregivers to respond promptly to emergencies. Secondly I recommend adding emergency protocols to the bill. These protocols should detail guidelines for administering epinephrine auto injectors in emergency situations involving infants and toddlers with allergies. They should also cover storage and maintenance of epinephrine auto injectors for young children to ensure preparedness in responding effectively to allergic reactions. Incorporating these amendments into HB2552 will strengthen the bills effectiveness, in protecting the health of our community members. Thank you for considering these suggestions. I am available to offer assistance or information to support this crucial legislation. Warm regards, Thomas Silvera
Elijah-Alavi Foundation www.elijahalavifoundation.org