



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 222		DATE: 2/11/2025	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
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: 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: 2/11/2025 11:40 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in Support of this Bill. This is Common-Sense Legislation to Protect the children across Missouri in Child-Care Centers with a approved State Allergy Plan by the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and to have Eppie Pens available for Staff use.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINE SASSO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: csasso@optonline.net	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 5:28 AM
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My son grew up with life threatening food allergies and too familiar with anaphylactic shock and epinephrine. He currently works at a daycare facility on his college campus. He told me about the food allergy training and he told me the best training was that which was created due to Elijah's Law.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CINDY KUHLMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cynthiakuhlman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 7:27 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIN MALAWER		PHONE NUMBER: 703-965-9121	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ALLERGYSTRONG		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1128 BALLS HILL RD.			
CITY: MCLEAN		STATE: VA	ZIP: 22101
EMAIL: erin@allergystrong.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 8:56 PM	

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

I write to you today in support of HB 222. As the Executive Director of AllergyStrong, a national non-profit, and importantly as a parent of a child with multiple food allergies, I strongly support child care facilities (and anywhere else that serves/hosts people with food allergies) to be prepared to manage an allergic reaction. Severe allergic reactions, called anaphylaxis, can be triggered by a small exposure to an allergen and can escalate quickly, resulting in hospitalization. Anaphylaxis can sometimes become fatal. People of all ages can develop a new allergy, even to foods they have previously tolerated. Therefore, it is critical that child care facilities (and elsewhere) stock unassigned epinephrine - the only medication that can stop a severe reaction - as part of their emergency medical care. It is equally important that they be educated on food allergies, trained to recognize symptom of a reaction, administration of epinephrine and medical protocol, and ways to prevent a reaction. AllergyStrong supports underserved communities living with food allergies. These communities are often hardest hit by this burdensome condition. Food allergies are more prevalent in these communities and they are often misunderstood, underdiagnosed, and families and individuals often lack access to epinephrine that is so vital to their health due to cost and difficulty finding an allergist. Child care facilities and elsewhere should not rely solely on parents providing this lifesaving medication which is one reason why stock epinephrine is important. Another convincing factor: anyone can acquire an allergy at any age. One study of the Chicago school system demonstrated that 25% of stock epinephrine use was for individuals with no previously known allergy - some administered to staff members as well as students. Additionally, food allergies is considered a disability in certain circumstances. Providing proper food allergy training is akin to ensuring building have ramps - they are protective and inclusive. Children, particularly young children, are our most vulnerable patient population. Generally, they cannot distinguish safe foods from unsafe ones, they are not developmentally equipped to exhibit caution or restraint, and they cannot advocate for themselves for protection. Therefore, it is essential that the adults around them are well-informed and prepared to act should a reaction occur. Everyone deserves the right to send their child to school safely. Allowing stock epinephrine, requiring food allergy education and training, and safeguarding good samaritans who rush in to help during severe allergic reactions will protect our youngest, most vulnerable patients with food allergies.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JEN GREENSTREET		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jengreenstreet@me.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 5:24 PM

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

I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of Elijah’s Law in Missouri. As the Founder, CEO, and Filmmaker of Just Like You Films, I have dedicated my career to telling the stories of children living with life-threatening medical conditions—including food allergies—to foster understanding and create change. As a mother of a child with life-threatening food allergies, I also know firsthand how critical it is to have clear, enforceable protections in place for children in preschool and daycare settings. My daughter, Tiernan, lives with food allergies, and like so many families, we live with the daily worry of accidental exposure. No parent should have to fear that their child’s school isn’t properly prepared to prevent, recognize, and respond to an allergic reaction. Elijah’s Law will ensure that Missouri’s early childhood education centers implement life-saving policies, including staff training, emergency preparedness, and prevention protocols. The tragic loss of Elijah-Alavi Green is a heartbreaking reminder of what’s at stake. Missouri has the opportunity to lead with compassion and responsibility by ensuring every child—regardless of their medical needs—is safe in school. Passing this law will not only honor Elijah’s legacy but also protect countless children and provide peace of mind to families across our state. I urge you to vote in favor of Elijah’s Law and be a champion for Missouri’s children. Thank you for your time and commitment to making our schools safer for all.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNA RIEMENSCHNEIDER		PHONE NUMBER: 202-466-7643	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ASTHMA AND ALLERGY FOUNDATION OF AMERICA		TITLE: VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVOCACY AND POLICY	
ADDRESS: 1400 CRYSTAL DRIVE, SUITE 660			
CITY: ARLINGTON		STATE: VA	ZIP: 22202
EMAIL: jennar@aafa.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 2:33 PM	

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 222, HB 97, and HB 580 (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 childcare 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 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		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHY DONOVAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kdonovan412@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 6:56 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MANDI KEARNS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA GREENSTREET		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: rjgreenstreet75@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 6:25 PM
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Protect our children!



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: TASHAYLA "DONOHOE" PERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 913-302-3098
REPRESENTING: CATALYST ON BEHALF OF ALLERGY AND ASTHMA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: KANSAS CITY	STATE: MO	ZIP: 64105
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: THOMAS SILVERA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tsilvera@elijahalavifoundation.org		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2025 2:21 PM
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Dear Chairperson and Members of the Health and Mental Health Committee, My name is Thomas Silvera, and I am the father of Elijah Silvera, the namesake of Elijah's Law, and the Vice President & Executive Director of the Elijah-Alavi Foundation. I come before you today with a heavy heart but a determined voice, urging you to support and pass Elijah's Law in Missouri HB 222. This legislation is not just about policy. It is about saving lives and ensuring that no other family endures the devastating loss that mine has suffered. Why Elijah's Law is Critical

In 2017, my son Elijah-Alavi Silvera tragically lost his life due to an anaphylactic reaction at his childcare center. He was just three years old. Despite clear documentation of his life-threatening dairy allergy, he was given a grilled cheese sandwich. The facility failed to recognize the severity of his allergy, lacked the proper training to respond, and did not administer epinephrine or call emergency services in time. His death was preventable. This tragedy is not an isolated incident. Anaphylaxis in young children is a growing public health crisis, and many childcare providers do not have the necessary training or protocols to prevent or respond to life-threatening allergic reactions.

Childcare Allergy Statistics: A Growing Concern One in 13 children in the U.S. has a food allergy, meaning that in a standard classroom, at least two children have a diagnosed food allergy. Between 2010 and 2016, the rate of anaphylaxis-related emergency room visits for children under five increased by substantially. Studies show that early childhood settings, including daycares and preschools, are high-risk environments for accidental allergen exposure due to cross-contact, untrained staff, and lack of standardized allergy management policies. Epinephrine delivery devices are underutilized, with more than 30% of children experiencing anaphylaxis receiving epinephrine before arriving at the hospital, often due to lack of training or fear of administering it.

What Elijah's Law Will Do Elijah's Law establishes mandatory allergy training, emergency response protocols, and life-saving preparedness measures in childcare centers, preschools, and early learning facilities. These measures include: Proper allergy management plans for children diagnosed with food allergies. Mandatory staff training on recognizing anaphylaxis, administering epinephrine, and following emergency protocols. Clear policies for food handling, allergen exposure prevention, and emergency response in childcare settings.

Missouri Has the Opportunity to Lead Elijah's Law has already passed in New York, Illinois, Virginia, Maryland, California and a City Ordinance in Kansas City for Elijah's Law, setting a precedent for stronger allergy protections in early childhood settings. Missouri now has the opportunity to join these states in taking proactive steps to protect children and prevent another senseless tragedy. No parent should have to fear for their child's life when they drop them off at daycare. Passing Elijah's Law in Missouri will ensure that childcare centers are properly trained, prepared, and equipped to handle food allergies, ultimately preventing unnecessary deaths.

A Call to Action I urge you to support HB 222, and pass Elijah's Law in Missouri. This is not just a legislative decision, it is a moral imperative to protect our most vulnerable children. Your support will save lives, ensure safer learning environments, and give parents the peace of mind that their children are in safe

and prepared hands. Thank you for your time, your attention, and your commitment to the health and safety of Missouri's children. I welcome any questions and look forward to seeing Missouri take a bold step forward in protecting children with food allergies. Sincerely, Thomas Silvera Vice President & Executive Director, Elijah-Alavi Foundation Father of Elijah-Alavi Silvera