

Testimony of The Honorable Laura A. Gillen (NY-04)

“Member Day Hearing”

House Committee on the Judiciary

November 20, 2025

Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Raskin, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to highlight how we can take action, together -- in a bipartisan way -- to save precious lives and prevent tragedies.

I’m here today because of this extraordinary woman alongside me -- Georgina Cornago, from Lynbrook, New York, who I am honored to represent in Congress.

Georgina traveled from Long Island to join me today to honor the memory of her beloved son, Giovanni Cipriano, and to help prevent future, heartbreaking tragedies by passing H.R. 4019, Gio’s Law. This bipartisan legislation, which I introduced with my Republican colleague from Long Island, Chairman Andrew Garbarino, would equip law enforcement officers across this country with access to lifesaving Epi-Pens in emergencies.

Mr. Chairman, Gio was a son. A brother. A teammate on a local travel baseball team. An honor student. He had just started his freshman year at Holy Trinity High School on Long Island, when he suffered a sudden, severe allergic reaction from a snack that contained peanuts.

His heart stopped while he was rushed to the hospital and he left us on October 18, 2013. His passing was an unfathomable tragedy, and we can and must never forget it.

Since his loss, Georgina has been tireless in doing everything possible to prevent another family from enduring this pain. That is because more than 32 million Americans live with life-threatening food allergies and other severe allergic conditions. Anaphylaxis can be triggered by food, insect stings, or medications – things we come into contact every day.

She succeeded in passing New York State's Gio's Law in 2019, enabling police departments across the state to carry epinephrine, and, starting with her hometown of Lynbrook, has worked to expand access to police in Nassau, Westchester, and Suffolk County– where earlier this year, cops saved the life of a 72-year-old bee-sting victim suffering a life-threatening allergic reaction, just two days after they started stocking EpiPens in their vehicles.

Thanks to the incredible work of advocates like Georgina, and other moms and activists in the allergy community, each day, more police departments across the country are already stepping up to equip officers with Epi-Pens. However, these devices can cost up to \$600 per use, which can make it difficult for many departments to purchase them.

That is why our bipartisan bill, Gio's Law, would establish the first-ever federal grant program at the U.S. Department of Justice to equip law enforcement across our country with EpiPens and train officers on how to safely use them.

This competitive grant program would help offset the cost of epinephrine for qualified state and local enforcement agencies – just like the existing OJP and COPS grant programs for body-worn cameras, bulletproof vests, and other equipment and technology. The bill would also standardize training for law enforcement officers to recognize the symptoms of anaphylaxis and administer epinephrine, ensure “Good Samaritan” safe harbor protections for police; and, promote outreach and awareness about the use of epinephrine.

This is a bipartisan, pro-law enforcement, public safety issue. Our brave police officers are the first to arrive on the scene in an emergency, and they deserve to have the equipment they need to save lives.

I’m proud that this bill has been endorsed by the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, the Food Allergy Nurses Association, and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology.

Mr. Chairman, we should not have to read about another American losing his or her life due to a severe allergic reaction, when we can take steps to prevent these tragedies. Let’s fund our police and give them the tools they need to continue to be heroes in our communities.

I am asking for your help to advance this critical, bipartisan measure, in memory of Gio, to better equip our police, save lives, and help the American people.

Chairman Jordan and Ranking Member Raskin, thank you for your time today and for your work on this Committee to serve our country and support law enforcement. I look forward to working with you and colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make progress on this critical issue and help save lives by passing Gio's Law. Thank you, and I yield back.