



January 6, 2020

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Cannon House Office Building, 102  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Phil Roe  
Longworth House Office Building, 1705  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hoyer and Representative Roe:

FARE (Food Allergy Research and Education) is the nation's leading organization dedicated to food allergy research, education, advocacy and the world's largest private source of funding for food allergy research. We write today to offer our strong support for H.R. 2468, the School-Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act, which would ensure that states that require schools to establish allergy and asthma management guidelines are given increased preference in the awarding of relevant grants. This important piece of legislation would improve the safety of children with asthma and food allergies and help ensure the full inclusion of these students in all school activities.

Food allergy is a life threatening, growing public health concern. 32 million Americans have food allergies, including nearly 6 million children. FARE advocates for the adoption of policies that improve the safety and inclusion of students and has been a leader in this area, providing training and resources to school and parents. In 2013, FARE collaborated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the creation of *Voluntary Guidelines for Managing Food Allergies in Schools and Early Care and Education Programs*—the first national comprehensive guidelines for school food allergy management.

More than six million American children have asthma, a disease that is one of the leading causes of school absenteeism. According to the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program, parents report that students miss 14 million days of school every year due to asthma. While asthma poses serious health and educational threats, with proper treatment and care, asthma can be controlled and does not have to negatively impact a student's access to education.

Guidelines around food allergies and asthma are important for several reasons.

- As 25 percent of first-time anaphylactic reactions occur at school, it is critical that students experiencing an anaphylactic reaction have immediate access to emergency stock epinephrine at school. Research suggests that the majority of fatal food allergy reactions are triggered by food consumed outside one's home.
- More than 15 percent of school-aged children with food allergies have had a reaction in school.
- In a 2013-2014 survey of schools participating in a program to provide undesignated (stock) epinephrine for emergency use, over 600 schools—more than 10 percent – reported at least one case of anaphylaxis.
- Approximately 20-25 percent of epinephrine administrations in schools involve individuals whose allergy was unknown at the time of the reaction.

H.R. 2468 will encourage states to prioritize the development of these guidelines, making millions of children with food allergies and asthma safer. We look forward to working with you, the members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee who will soon consider the legislation, and all members of Congress to pass this ask that all members of the Health Subcommittee support this important piece

of legislation. Should you have any questions, please contact Steve Danon at 858-774-1290. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this bill further with you, as well as our support for H.R. 2117, the FASTER Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Gable". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Gable" clearly distinguishable.

Lisa Gable  
Chief Executive Officer  
FARE

CC: Chairman Rep. Frank Pallone, Chairwoman Rep. Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member Rep. Greg Walden, and Ranking Member Rep. Michael Burgess