



Senate Bill 234
House Public Health Policy Committee Proponent Testimony
December 4, 2024

Chairman Mathews, Vice Chairman Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and all members of the House Public Health Policy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit supportive comments regarding Senate Bill 234. The Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (Ohio ACEP) represents over 1,500 emergency physicians across the State and our members support raising awareness regarding food allergies.

We see many patients come to the emergency department with food allergy reactions and anaphylaxis. These exposures are largely preventable and anything the state can do to raise awareness is important for public health. Anaphylaxis is one of the most common life-threatening emergencies in children. And about 50% of anaphylactic episodes are triggered by food. Many times, a young child might not be able to articulate their situation, so it is important for parents and other adults to be aware of the signs and symptoms of allergic reactions.

We know timely treatment after an exposure saves lives. Even if an epi pen is administered patients often still need to be seen and treated by a physician.

Ohio ACEP thanks Senator Gavarone for introducing this legislation and sharing her families' experience with food allergies. We also thank the committee for their thoughtful consideration of this bill.

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