



FARE

Food Allergy Research & Education

In Support of HB 200, sponsored by Representative Christina Hagan

- Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE) is the nation's leading advocacy organization for the 15 million Americans with food allergies including 5.9 million children.
- Food allergies can be life-threatening and are a serious and growing public health problem – and currently there is no cure.
- Food allergies among children increased approximately 50% between 1997 and 2011, according to a 2013 study by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.
- Severe reactions, including anaphylaxis, may include obstructive swelling of the lips, tongue, and/or throat; trouble swallowing; shortness of breath; wheezing; drop in blood pressure; vomiting; loss of consciousness; chest pain; and/or weak pulse, any of which require urgent medical attention and, if left untreated, may cause death.
- Epinephrine is the first-line treatment for anaphylaxis. It is safe and simple to administer.
- Food allergy is the most common cause of anaphylaxis, although several other allergens – insect stings, medications, or latex – are other potential triggers.
- Since 2011, FARE has supported legislation to ensure schools have access to undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors in case of an allergic emergency.
 - Forty-eight states now allow or require K-12 schools to stock epinephrine.
 - Approximately 20-25 percent of epinephrine administrations involved students or staff whose allergy was unknown at the time of the event.¹
 - In a survey of more than 6,500 schools that stock auto injectors, 1,140 anaphylactic events were reported during the 2013-2014 school year. Stock epinephrine auto-injectors were used to treat 38 percent of these cases.²
- While having emergency epinephrine in K-12 schools has been proven to be critical, anyone can develop an allergy and experience an anaphylactic emergency at any time anywhere. **HB 200** expands availability and access to epinephrine:
 - The bill permits but does NOT require certain entities located where allergens capable of causing anaphylaxis may be present to acquire and maintain epinephrine auto-injectors without a license, and to administer the epinephrine during an emergency.³
 - Entities include child day-care centers, colleges and universities, places of employment, restaurants, amusement parks, recreation camps, sports playing fields and arenas, and other similar locations.³

¹ McIntre CL, Sheetz AH, Carroll CR, Young MC. Administration of epinephrine for life-threatening allergic reactions in school settings. *J Pediatr.* 2005; 116(5): 1134-1140.

²EPIPEN4SCHOOLS® Survey Combined Analysis: Prevalence and Triggers of Anaphylactic Events White, Martha V. et al. *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, Volume 137, Issue 2, AB52

³ Musielewicz, L, Ohio Legislative Service Commission, HB200 Bill Analysis, As Passed by the House 12-01-15 <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=4527&format=pdf>

- The bill authorizes certain health professionals who are authorized by law to prescribe drugs to furnish or prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors to qualified entities.³
- The bill specifies training requirements for individuals authorized by qualified entities to administer epinephrine during an emergency.³
- The bill provides certain immunities to qualified entities, authorized individuals, training providers, health professionals, and pharmacists.³
- The bill grants health professionals who consult with, or issue protocols to, schools or camps pursuant to existing law qualified immunity from civil liability arising from procuring, maintaining, accessing, or using epinephrine auto-injectors in the schools or camps.³
- To date, 23 states⁴ have passed similar legislation.
- Sadly, many lives have been tragically lost due to allergic reactions. Food allergies account for more than 200,000 visits to emergency rooms each year. While we urge everyone who is diagnosed to carry their own medication at all times, anyone can develop food allergies at any time or have their first exposure to a food while away from home. **HB 200** is about protection and preparedness. This bill is a simple solution to a potentially deadly outcome. I urge you to support **HB 200**, it may even save your life!

⁴ AR, AZ, CO, FL, GA, IA, ID, IN, KY, ME, MI, MN, NV, NJ, NC, OK, OR, RI, UT, WA, WV, WI, TN