



From the desk of Dr. Alice Hoyt
Allergist & Immunologist
Executive Director, Code Ana
www.CodeAna.org

December 15, 2020

Dear Senator,

Imagine for a moment that something as seemingly harmless as peanut butter could take your life.

Or, more disconcerting, imagine that it could take the life of your child.

That is exactly what happened to the parents of Allison Rose Suhy, but with your help, this type of tragedy can be prevented.

Allison, lovingly called “Ally,” was a young lady who I never had the pleasure of meeting. This is because, when she was just a freshman at Ohio University, her life unexpectedly came to an end. She suffered a sudden and severe allergic reaction – anaphylaxis.

Anaphylaxis can be triggered by foods, medications, and insects, to name a few causes. Unfortunately, food allergy, which is one of the most common causes of anaphylaxis, is all too common today. 1 in 13 children and 1 in 10 adults has food allergy. This disease impacts families across all communities. Anaphylaxis must be treated promptly with epinephrine to decrease the risk of death from the allergic reaction.

Given the prevalence of food allergy and the timeliness in which anaphylaxis must be treated, our communities, especially our schools, need to be prepared to prevent, respond to, and treat an allergic reaction. House Bill 231, the “Allison Rose Suhy Act,” will help schools do just that.

When Ally passed away, her parents Mike and Becca Suhy set forth on a mission to prevent this tragedy from striking other families. It’s been my honor to collaborate with the Suhy family through my work as an allergist at the Cleveland Clinic and through my non-profit Code Ana, which equips schools for medical emergencies. Together, we’ve trained first responders how to teach food allergy and anaphylaxis to their local schools and colleges, a train-the-trainer program unlike any other in the country. This programming has reached thousands of students and school personnel, teaching individuals how they can save a life.

But we need your help. HB 231 will support our efforts and the efforts of those with similar missions, to help schools prevent and be prepared for anaphylaxis. This is why I encourage you to vote in favor of HB 231, the “Allison Rose Suhy Act.”

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Warm regards,

Alice E. W. Hoyt, MD
drhoyt@codeana.org