

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being written to support bill SB 895. I am the parent of two children with food allergies. My daughter Lilly, 10, is allergic to eggs, nuts and milk. My 7 year-old daughter Kate is allergic to nuts, has allergy related asthma and eczema. For us, a visit to a restaurant could result in a visit to the emergency room. If there is cross contamination in the kitchen or from the server my daughters could have an anaphylactic reaction. This means that her throat could close causing her to choke. As a result we do not go to restaurants very often. This bill could lead to dramatic changes in the lives of people with food allergies. I know that this bill does not solve our problem, but it brings awareness to an issue that impacts more people every day.

There are many reasons why this bill is so important. It is estimated is that food-related anaphylaxis results in about 150 deaths, over 90,000 emergency room admissions each year and 2,000 hospitalizations. This estimated number, reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), represents 4% of adults (9 million) and 8% of children (6 million). And a study by the CDC indicates those figures reflect an 18% increase over the past decade. It is a growing issue, with the prevalence of food allergies and associated anaphylaxis on the rise. Even trace amounts of an allergen can cause a reaction, which is why proper safeguards and training is so important.

Please consider this bill for passage into law for the sake of my children and maybe yours as well. Thank you.