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April 6, 2021

The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Secretary

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

**RE: Implementation of Public Law No. 116-292, the *School-Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act***

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I write on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) to offer our expertise and experience managing patients with chronic asthma and allergies as a resource to you as your Agency implements the [School-Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act \(P.L. 116-292\)](#).

Established in 1943, the AAAAI is a professional organization with more than 7,000 members in the United States, Canada and 72 other countries. This membership includes board certified allergist/immunologists, other medical specialists, allied health, and related healthcare professionals – all with a special interest in the research and treatment of patients with allergic and immunological diseases.

As you may know, the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress passed the bipartisan *School-Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act*, which will support schools in the development of allergies and asthma management plans. The bill, authored by Majority Leader Hoyer, amends the Public Health Service Act to provide preference to states which ensure a school nurse or other trained staffer is available on the premises, and that students diagnosed with allergies and asthma are identified and have an individualized action plan and coordinated support system.

This legislation was based on the [School-based Asthma, Allergy & Anaphylaxis Management Program, or SAMPRO™](#) which AAAAI created in collaboration with [others](#) to assist students with asthma and allergies and their families practice consistent management of their conditions in school. SAMPRO advocates for a series of components to

integrate care plans into schools. These include coordinated support between school personnel, families and clinicians, and the creation of management, education, and environmental plans to coordinate, assess, and remediate the symptoms of allergy and asthma prior to the occurrence of an acute reaction.

The AAAAI offers a [publicly available toolkit](#) and additional school based food allergy resources newly added in 2020, that highlight key information from SAMPRO™ that can be utilized by parents, clinicians, and school personnel. Given the expertise of our members in this area, I want to offer the AAAAI as a resource to you in implementing this legislation that will help ensure that children returning to in-person learning this year will be afforded the best opportunity to focus on their education.

The AAAAI looks forward to working with you to implement the *School-Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act*. As any issues related to allergies, asthma, and immunological disorders arise, I encourage you to contact Sheila Heitzig, JD, MNM, CAE, AAAAI Director of Practice and Policy, at (414) 272-6071 or [sheitzig@aaaai.org](mailto:sheitzig@aaaai.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Giselle Mosnaim MD MS FAAAAI". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Giselle S. Mosnaim, MD, MS, FAAAAI  
President, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

CC: Honorable Steny H. Hoyer