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February 18, 2021

The Honorable Doris Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives
2311 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick McHenry
U.S. House of Representatives
2004 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 2-515

RE: Support of the *Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education, and Research (FASTER) Act*

Dear Representatives Matsui and McHenry,

I write on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) to thank you for your continued leadership in reintroducing the ***Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education, and Research (FASTER) Act*** in the 117th Congress. The FASTER Act will improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders and we applaud your continued attention to this matter.

Established in 1943, the AAAAI is a professional organization with more than 6,700 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.

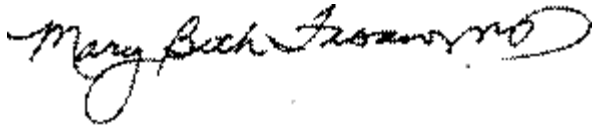
Food allergies trigger an overreaction of the immune system to a particular protein found in that food. Symptoms can occur when coming in contact with just a tiny amount of that food. Food allergy reactions can be life threatening, so people with this type of allergy must be very careful to avoid their food triggers.

AAAAI appreciates that the *FASTER Act* would advance recommendations from the National Academy of Medicine report “*Finding a Path to Safety in Food Allergy: Assessment of the Global Burden, Causes, Prevention, Management, and Public Policy*,” including adding sesame to the list of allergens required to be listed on food labels, and seeking recommendations to strengthen data collection on the prevalence of food allergies, strategies to overcome gaps in surveillance and data collection activities, and the development and implementation of a process and framework that would allow evidence-based modifications to the list of major food allergens by regulation.

(more)

Thank you for your leadership in protecting Americans with food allergies. The AAAAI looks forward to working with you and your staff, especially through the new congressional Food Allergy Research Caucus. As 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 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Beth Fasano, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M".

Mary Beth Fasano, MD, MSPH, FAAAAI
President, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology