Re: Support for H.R. 8450, the Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act

Dear Representatives Scott and Bonamici:

I write on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) in support of H.R. 8450, the Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act. We appreciate that H.R. 8450 would reauthorize and modernize the federal child nutrition programs and thank you for including enhanced support for individuals with food allergies.

Established in 1943, the AAAAI is a professional association with over 7,000 members in the United States, Canada and 72 other countries. This membership includes allergist/immunologists (A/I), other medical specialists, allied health, and related healthcare professionals, all with a special interest in the research and treatment of patients with allergic and immunologic diseases.

Food allergies affect 32 million Americans, including 6 million children. The AAAAI supports H.R. 8450, which would reauthorize and modernize federal child nutrition programs and make necessary improvements for those living with food allergies. The AAAAI is especially pleased with Section 305, which would ensure support for Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) eligible individuals impacted by food allergies. This provision would ensure creation and distribution of accurate nutrition education materials in multiple languages for WIC participants, which will advance health equity and eliminate disparities for those with food allergies.

Thank you for your leadership on this important legislation. 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,

David A. Khan, MD, FAAAAI
President, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology