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March 5, 2021

The Honorable Tim Scott
United States Senate
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Murphy
United States Senate
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 578, Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education, and Research (FASTER) Act

Dear Senators Scott and Murphy,

I write on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) to thank you for your strong leadership in reintroducing and advancing S. 578, the **Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education, and Research (FASTER) Act**. The FASTER Act will improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders. We applaud the Senate's swift passage of this legislation.

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.

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

(more)

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.

Thank you for your leadership in protecting Americans with food allergies. The AAAAI looks forward to working with you to see the FASTER Act become law.

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 "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