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June 29, 2021

The Honorable Glenn Grothman
U.S. House of Representatives
1427 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Dillon's Law (H.R. 4049)

Dear Representative Grothman:

I write on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) to thank you for your introduction of H.R. 4049, *Dillon's Law*. AAAAAI supports this legislation that would incentivize states, using existing grants, to expand epinephrine training programs.

Established in 1943, AAAAAI 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.

Anaphylaxis can result from insect stings, food items, and medications with 500-1,000 fatalities annually and many more hospitalizations and emergency department visits. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) reports that the prevalence of food allergies in children increased by 50 percent between 1997 and 2011. Between 1997 and 2008, the prevalence of peanut or tree nut allergy appears to have more than tripled in U.S. children. About 40 percent of children with food allergies have experienced a severe reaction, such as anaphylaxis. Each year, more than 200,000 Americans require emergency medical care for allergic reactions to food: equivalent to one trip to the emergency room every three minutes.

H.R. 4049, named in memory of Dillon Mueller, will help to prevent tragedies among allergic individuals including anaphylaxis by creating a preference under an existing preventive health services federal grant program for states that allow trained individuals to carry and administer epinephrine to someone suffering from a severe allergic reaction.

(more)

On behalf of the patients we serve, thank you for your leadership in bringing attention to the issue of severe allergic reactions. The AAAAI looks forward to working with you to advance this important legislation. Please 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, flowing style.

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

but potentially dangerous visits to their doctor and relieve the bandwidth issues expected at physician offices, urgent care centers, and emergency rooms across the country as the virus continues to spread.

Through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) numerous virtual care and telehealth flexibilities offered through recent rulemakings related to the COVID-19 pandemic, AAAAI members report increased patient uptake of telehealth and virtual technology platforms that are helping them diagnose, treat, and manage the care of Medicare and Medicaid patients with allergies, asthma, and other respiratory and immunologic diseases.

Given AAAAI members' positive experiences with telehealth, our organization especially appreciates the provisions in the *CONNECT for Health Act of 2021* that would: make the COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities permanent; expand coverage of telehealth services through Medicare; and remove permanently all geographic restrictions on telehealth services and expand originating sites to include the home and other sites.

Thank you for your leadership in introducing legislation to ensure flexible patient access to care through telehealth services. The AAAAI looks forward to working with you to advance the *CONNECT for Health Act of 2021* in the 117th Congress.

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.