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October 30, 2020

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

RE: Epi for Dilly Act of 2020 (H.R. 7873)

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. 7873, the "Epi for Dilly Act of 2020." AAAAI supports this bipartisan legislation that would incentivize states, using existing grants, to expand epinephrine training programs.

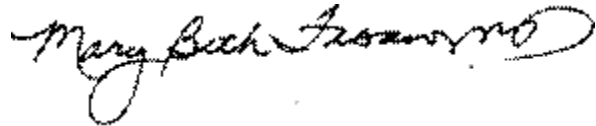
Established in 1943, the AAAAI is a professional organization with more than 7,000 members in the United States, Canada and 73 other countries. This membership includes board certified allergist/immunologists, other medical specialists, allied health, and related healthcare professionals – all with a special interest in the research and treatment of patients with allergic and immunological diseases.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) reports 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. This is in addition to those children who suffer an anaphylactic reaction to stinging insects, like Dillon Mueller ("Dilly").

H.R. 7873 will enable more individuals to prevent tragedies involving anaphylaxis from occurring 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.

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 "Mary Beth Fasano, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M" and "F".

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