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September 17, 2014

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
478 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cory Booker
141 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand and Senator Booker:

I write on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) to express support for **S. 2804, the Family Asthma Act**. This legislation would create programs to better educate families on asthma management and prevention, and would improve asthma research and data collection to help target asthma interventions more effectively.

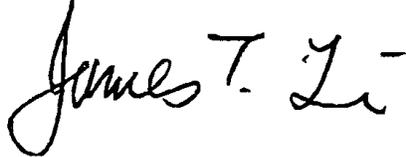
Established in 1943, the AAAAI is a professional organization with more than 6,700 members in the United States, Canada and 72 other countries. This membership includes allergist/immunologists, other medical specialists, allied health and related healthcare professionals – all with a special interest in the research and treatment of patients with allergic and immunological diseases.

As you know, more than 25 million Americans suffer from asthma, and the number of people with asthma only continues to grow. The disease kills 3,400 people each year, and is responsible for an additional 7,000 deaths annually as a result of asthma related complications. There is no cure for asthma, but once it is properly diagnosed and a treatment plan is in place patients are able to better manage their condition and improve their quality of life.

An allergist/immunologist is the best-qualified physician to diagnose and treat asthma. S. 2804 would bring together the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the asthma community to decrease asthma morbidity, mortality, and prevalence while identifying successful asthma interventions and recommendations for future research.

Thank you for your commitment to helping adults and children with asthma lead healthier lives. AAAAI looks forward to working with you and your staff as issues related to asthma management and prevention arise, and would 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 "James T. Li". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James T. Li, MD, PhD, FAAAAI
President