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The Honorable Doris O. Matsui
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 2117, FASTER Act of 2019

Dear Representative Matsui:

I write on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) to express support for **H.R. 2117, the Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education, and Research (FASTER) Act of 2019**, which would improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders.

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 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 your legislation 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 strengthening data collection on the prevalence of food allergies, and adding sesame to the list of allergens required to be listed on food labels, as well as providing flexibility for the Secretary to add any other food ingredients determined by regulation to be a major food allergen. In

(more)

addition, we support the provision of more information on patient experience data related to treatments for patients with food allergies and welcome a study of the economic costs of food allergies.

Thank you for your leadership in protecting Americans with food allergies. The AAAAI looks forward to working with you and your staff as issues related to allergies, asthma, and immunological disorders 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 cursive script that reads "David M. Lang".

David M. Lang, MD FAAAAI
President