**Contact Tools for AAAAI Virtual Advocacy Day**

**June 3, 2020**

**Finding Contact Information for Your Members of Congress**

House of Representatives: Enter your home (where you are registered to vote) zip code to find your member of the U.S. House of Representatives at <https://ziplook.house.gov/htbin/findrep_house?ZIP=>. Some zip codes overlap multiple congressional districts, so you may have to enter your full home address. If you click on the link under their photo, you will be directed to their official website.

Senators: Find your Senators and their website listings at <https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm>.

To find your members of Congress on social media, you can either check their official website as indicated above, or search for them directly on either Twitter or Facebook. A blue check mark next to their account name signifies their official, verified account.

**Providing Feedback via Websites of Members of Congress**

Some members of Congress include email addresses on their website, but some do not. Whether you can find an email address or not, you can use the content of our draft email template as a starting point for your own communications.

Some Congressional websites will only provide a form where you can submit a comment. If that’s the case, you can still copy and paste from our draft email, but you won’t be able to send any attachments. If this is the case, please include this link to send our Virtual Advocacy Day issue brief: <https://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Advocacy/AAAAI-Advocacy-Handouts.pdf>

**Email**

If you are able to send an email, consider using the draft below, but remember that what makes it most impactful is to make it personal.

Also, please include either the link to the issue brief, <https://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Advocacy/AAAAI-Advocacy-Handouts.pdf>, or download it and send as an attachment.

Finally, if you do send an email, please copy [advocacy@aaaai.org](mailto:advocacy@aaaai.org) so that we can help with any necessary follow up!

**DRAFT EMAIL TEMPLATE**

*Dear Title (Senator or Representative) Last Name;*

*I’m a constituent and physician with the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI). I’m writing to you regarding issues of importance to my patients and me, and to offer myself as a resource on these or any other issues where I may be helpful. Please see here for an issue brief on the topics discussed below:* <https://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Advocacy/AAAAI-Advocacy-Handouts.pdf>

*First, federal funding for* ***food allergy research*** *has been a long-standing priority for the allergy/immunology (A/I) medical and patient community. As you may know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported a continued rise in the prevalence of food allergies in children and close to a majority of children with food allergies have experienced a severe reaction, such as anaphylaxis. Additionally, over 200,000 Americans annually require emergency medical care for allergic reactions to food. I’m asking for your support in the fiscal year 2021 appropriations package for food allergy research through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Department of Defense (DoD). The maintenance and expansion of these programs will ensure that key research programs continue, with the goal of controlling symptoms and preventing adverse outcomes for children and adults who suffer from related conditions.*

*Second, I urge your support for the bipartisan* ***School-Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act (H.R. 2468)****, introduced in the House by Representatives Hoyer and Roe. This legislation, which advanced through the House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee by a voice vote earlier this year, would encourage schools to implement management plans in order to be prepared to help students identify and control their allergies and asthma to reduce absenteeism that results from students’ difficulty managing these chronic conditions. With schools preparing to reopen this fall amid the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, it is vital that we ensure allergic and asthmatic children are aware of their symptoms, maintain their controller medications, and have a plan in place at school to manage their condition. I encourage Congress to pass this legislation and include it in COVID-19 response packages.*

*Finally, amid the challenges that patients have faced regarding access to care during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the AAAAI urges Congress to* ***make permanent the telehealth flexibilities*** *implemented in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. AAAAI also supports efforts to increase access to telemedicine for patients with private insurance, as well as for Medicare and Medicaid patients. Increased access to telehealth has had a positive impact on patient care and access, and it is my hope that we can count on your support in Congress for making many of these changes permanent.*

*Thank you for your consideration of our federal advocacy priorities. If I can be helpful to you on this or any other issue in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.*

*Sincerely,*

*Name and credentials*

*Email address*

*Your* ***home*** *city and state (where you are registered to vote)*

*Employment/practice information (optional)*

**Social Media**

We have included draft tweet templates below that you can utilize to communicate with your elected officials on Twitter, including key #hashtags that you should consider using within your tweets.

**TWITTER**

Remember that tweets have a limit of 280 characters. Each of the following draft tweets should be within this limit (depending on length of your lawmaker’s handle) if you copy and paste them, but you are also welcome to use your own text instead. You can find your lawmakers’ Twitter handles and Facebook pages on their constituent websites, or by searching Twitter and Facebook.

Be sure to include the hashtag **#AIDocs** in every tweet so we can better measure our outreach!

**Issue #1: Food Allergy Research Funding***Did you know food #allergy has been increasing for 50 years? Research $$ are needed. #AIDocs ask (insert lawmaker handle) to support food #allergy research in the FY21 DoD and Labor/HHS approps bills. @AppropsDems @HouseAppropsGOP @SenateApprops*

**Issue #2: School-Based Allergies and Asthma Management Program Act***Students need support with #asthma & #allergy conditions to prevent a trip to the ER during the #COVID19 pandemic. I urge (insert lawmaker handle) to cosponsor HR 2468 supported by @AAAAI\_org and introduced by @LeaderHoyer, @DrPhilRoe. #AIDocs***Issue #3: Strengthening Access to Telehealth Beyond the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency***#Telehealth changes from @CMSGov in response to #COVID19 have helped patient access to needed care from #AIDocs and other providers. I urge (insert lawmaker handle) to support making these changes permanent.*

**FACEBOOK**

Facebook posts do not have any character limits, so feel free to adapt your message accordingly beyond the abridged Twitter templates provided. Remember that more personal is more impactful.

In addition to your own comments, you may want to copy/paste text from the draft email above, or from the issue brief at: <https://www.aaaai.org/Aaaai/media/MediaLibrary/PDF%20Documents/Advocacy/AAAAI-Advocacy-Handouts.pdf>

**KEY HASHTAGS/HANDLES FOR TWITTER AND FACEBOOK**

**#AIDocs (use in every tweet!)**, #asthma, #allergy, #telehealth, @AAAAI\_org