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July 6, 2012

Chair April Mastroluca and Members
Legislative Committee on Health Care
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Distinguished Committee Members:

On behalf of the nearly six million children in the U.S. with food allergies, the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN) and the Food Allergy Initiative (FAI) submit this letter in support of a request for legislation requiring schools to stock epinephrine auto-injectors in case of anaphylactic emergencies.

As you may know, it's now estimated that roughly two children in every classroom have a food allergy. This well-documented rise in the prevalence of food allergy among children requires our immediate attention. What's more, studies show that up to 25 percent of epinephrine administrations in school settings involve students whose food allergies were *previously undiagnosed*.

Food allergic reactions can range from mild to severe. The most severe reaction – anaphylaxis -- is potentially life-threatening, and must be treated immediately with epinephrine, the only medication that can reverse the symptoms of anaphylaxis. Published studies clearly show that food allergy-related deaths result when there is a delay in the administration of epinephrine, or when epinephrine was not given at all. Schools must be prepared to act quickly in anaphylactic emergencies. Every second counts.

A stock epinephrine law would enable schools to equip epinephrine auto-injectors, allowing trained school personnel to access this lifesaving medication in emergencies in which a student does not have a prescribed device. This requirement could *save a child's life*.

EXHIBIT D – HEALTH CARE
Document consists of 2 pages.
Entire exhibit provided.
Meeting Date: 07-10-12

Tragically, in the last two years, two students have died after experiencing fatal anaphylaxis while at school. Neither student had a prescribed epinephrine auto-injector at school.

We cannot allow another student to die because they did not have a prescribed epinephrine on campus.

FAAN and FAI are committed to helping schools become safe for students with food allergies. Please contact us if you have any questions concerning epinephrine legislation or school food allergy management guidelines.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Lehr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Lehr" clearly distinguishable.

John Lehr
Chief Executive Officer