



Re: Letter of Support for SB 978 / HB 672
Coverage of Food Allergy Prevention

Dear Senator Argall,

On behalf of the Elijah Alavi Foundation, I write in strong support of SB 978 / HB 672, legislation requiring public and private insurance coverage for early food allergy prevention interventions for infants between six months and one year of age.

My name is Thomas Silvera, and I serve as Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Elijah-Alavi Foundation. Our organization was created in memory of my son, Elijah-Alavi Silvera, who tragically passed away in November 2017 after being given a food he was allergic to at his childcare center. Since his passing, we have worked across the nation to advance food allergy education, training, and lifesaving legislation, including the passage of Elijah's Law in multiple states.

Research has increasingly demonstrated that early introduction of allergenic foods, when done safely and under appropriate medical guidance, can significantly reduce the risk of developing food allergies. However, many families face financial barriers that limit access to preventive products, medical consultations, and supervised introduction strategies. Without insurance coverage, early prevention becomes a privilege rather than a standard of care.

SB 978 / HB 672 represents a proactive public health approach. By ensuring coverage for early introduction interventions during a critical developmental window, this legislation helps reduce long term healthcare costs, emergency room visits, and the emotional and financial burden that food allergies place on families. More importantly, it has the potential to prevent severe allergic disease before it begins.

For families like mine, prevention is not abstract. It is deeply personal. We know what it means to live with the constant vigilance required to keep a child safe from a life-threatening allergic reaction. We also know the devastation that can occur when systems fall short. Legislation that promotes prevention is legislation that protects children.

This bill moves us from reaction to prevention. It reflects science, equity, and compassion. By expanding coverage for early food allergy prevention, you are investing in healthier futures and helping to save lives.

We respectfully urge you to support SB 978 / HB 672.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to the health and safety of children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Silvera', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Thomas Silvera
Co-Founder and Executive Director
Elijah-Alavi Foundation

www.elijahalavifoundation.org