

**NAME:** Molly Starr

**TITLE:** Parent with USD 497 school district; Lawrence, Kansas resident; food allergy family member

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** molly.fogarty@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 2547

**PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL:** Proponent

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written Only

Thursday, March 07, 2024

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 142-S  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Honorable Chair Sen. Beverly Gossage and Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare,

SUBJECT: Food-allergy Parent Writing in Support of HB 2547

I am writing in **support of HB 2547**, the bill attempting to make it easier for Kansas schools to acquire epinephrine and albuterol to keep our students safe and alive.

I am a resident of Lawrence, KS, and a parent of a kindergarten kiddo at Woodlawn Elementary School in USD 497.

I have been fervently begging our principal, school nurse, and district nurse to provide undesignated epinephrine for our district schools, partly because my son has a history of anaphylactic reactions to egg and peanuts, and my mother is anaphylactically allergic to fish. I grew up in a home knowing that foods that are normal to some, can cause death and severe reactions for others.

I also know that our schools are serving peanut butter daily, I'm sure as a cost saving measure, but other students at the school are then exposed to their food nemesis daily. I know that minutes matter, and epinephrine, like Narcan, is a medicine that needs to be administered immediately - within two minutes. It needs to be kept on a wall, or carried around with someone, because when someone's throat closes due to the allergic response, they have only minutes to get back to being able to breathe.

The **HB 2547** bill would allow our district schools, and other rural schools, with the resources they need to save lives and keep our students safe.

Anyone can have an allergic reaction, and most of the reactions happen at schools.

Please educate your staff about [FARE](#) - the US Food Allergy Research and Education guidelines for schools and the [CDC](#) information about the increasing number of students, 1 in 13 children (or about two per classroom), with food allergies.

I know that schools in Olathe already have undesignated epinephrine, while smaller schools in Lawrence, and rural schools are without this life-saving tool.

I have been trying to figure out how to get my kiddo's school to carry epinephrine (my kid and family have a history of severe anaphylactic food allergies), and I have spoken to the nurse, and the district nurse about carrying it (it would be provided free from <https://www.epipen4schools.com/>), but the district nurse keeps telling me that there isn't a pharmacist who would take responsibility for Rx-ing it due to KS laws, even though it's allowed and free.

Please do all you can to make schools safer with this bill and enact it as soon as possible. Every day a school is without albuterol and ephedrine is a risk we do not need to take with our student's lives.

Sincerely,  
Molly Starr  
779 Elm Street  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
[molly.fogarty@gmail.com](mailto:molly.fogarty@gmail.com)