

Audrey M. Weissman M.D.
ALLERGY - ASTHMA - IMMUNOLOGY
President of The NYS Society of Allergy, Asthma, Immunology
Rego Park Medical Associates
59-10 Junction Boulevard, Elmhurst, New York 11373
Phone: (718) 592-3200 Fax: (718) 592-3844

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Senator Gustavo Rivera
grivera@nysenate.gov

Re: Letter in support of including the bill A06425 / S07114 into the budget specifically capping the cost of Life-Saving Epinephrine Auto Injectors at no more than \$100- annually

Dear Senator Rivera,

I write to you as President and on behalf of the NYSSAAI, in support of bills A06425 & S07114.

As a practicing Allergist for over 34 years, it is imperative to have life-saving Epinephrine auto-injectors more affordable to the approximately 2 million NY Food Allergy persons who desperately need them and may not be able to afford them.

Over the last 20 years, there has been a rising rate, especially of children with food allergies, especially those that have experienced anaphylaxis. Often the only way to stop an anaphylactic reaction is through the immediate administration of an Epinephrine auto-injector. Often, when a patient is having an anaphylactic reaction, they may after a short period of time require administration of a second dose of Epinephrine. For this reason, Epinephrine auto-injectors come in a two-pack making the cost even more expensive.

It has equally been reported that anaphylaxis is occurring at an alarming rate in minority populations of Latino, African American and Asian-American children.

One of the greatest burdens of food allergy are patients and families facing the rising cost of Epinephrine auto-injectors as well as high deductibles. Currently, the cost of a brand name EPI Pen ranges from \$650 to \$730 depending upon the pharmacy and the generic version costs between \$320 and \$750, making it too expensive for many New Yorkers.

A06425 / S07114 offers an alternative to the mounting costs of Epinephrine auto-injectors where there would be a cap of the cost of life-saving Epinephrine Auto-Injectors to be no more than \$100 annually.

We as a collective society encourage members of the New York State Assembly and Senate to cosponsor and support this inclusion of bills A06425 / S07114 in their respective budget proposals.

Most sincerely,


Audrey Weissman, M.D.

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Elmhurst, NY 11373
718-592-3200

encl.