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**CONTACT**

Travis Flinn

Office of State Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith

[Flinn.Travis@FLSenate.gov](mailto:Flinn.Travis@FLSenate.gov)

(850) 487-5017

## **Florida Senate Unanimously Passes Senator Carlos G. Smith's School Anaphylaxis Legislation with Bipartisan Applause and Praise**

*SB 1514 enhances school readiness for responding to student anaphylaxis medical emergencies*

TALLAHASSEE, FL - Yesterday, the full Florida Senate unanimously passed **Senate Bill 1514 Anaphylaxis in Public and Charter Schools**, by **State Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-Orlando)**. **SB 1514** requires both traditional and charter public schools to be ready and able to implement emergency action plans for students with allergies at all times while the student is on school grounds—specifically during extracurricular activities, athletic events, school dances, and before- and after-school programs. It requires an adequate number of school personnel undergo critical, but simple and straightforward training on the administration of emergency epinephrine (or EpiPens).

Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith offered the following comments following the bill's passage.

*"It's vital that we ensure our public schools understand the risk of anaphylaxis and have a plan should a child be exposed to a triggering allergen. The passage of SB 1514 could mean the difference between life and death for students with serious allergies. This legislation also gives parents peace of mind that their child can safely participate in before, during, and after school activities in an environment where school personnel are ready and able to administer EpiPens in case of a medical emergency."*

**Sherry Isler**, an Orange County mom whose advocacy inspired this legislative action, provided the following comments after the unanimous vote:

*"The passage of this legislation has been years in the making. When my son Lincoln was unable to attend before school care, due to a lack of training of personnel on the administration of epinephrine, I was determined to make a change that guaranteed his access to all school-sponsored events and ensured his safety and the safety of other kids with these serious reactions. While the battle has been uphill, I thank the Florida legislature for listening and helping to protect our students."*

The 501(c)3 nonprofit **Red Sneakers for Oakley**, offered the following:

*"We proudly stand in strong support of Senate Bill 1514, a critical step forward in protecting the lives of students across Florida who live with life-threatening food allergies. This bill recognizes a simple but profound truth: every child deserves to feel safe at school. By requiring emergency anaphylaxis training for*

*school personnel and ensuring that a student’s emergency action plan remains effective and in place at all times, SB 1514 addresses a gap that has already cost too many young lives.”*

*“Our organization was founded in memory of Oakley Debbs, an 11-year-old boy who tragically lost his life to a preventable anaphylactic reaction. His passing is a heartbreaking reminder that food allergies are not just an inconvenience—they can be deadly without an immediate, informed response. This legislation brings us closer to a world where students with food allergies are not only included—but protected.”*

According to the Florida Department of Health’s 2022-2023 *Annual School Health Services Report*, approximately 76,000 students in Florida have these types of life-threatening allergies. Additionally, 112,680 students diagnosed with asthma may also be at risk of severe allergic reactions when exposed to allergens. For these students, the prompt use of an epinephrine auto-injector can be life saving.

The bill now heads to the Florida House of Representatives for final passage, where sponsor Representative Rita Harris (D-Orlando) has earned unanimous support in each committee.

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