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Senator Carlos G. Smith's School EpiPen & Anaphylaxis Legislation Signed into Law *SB 1514 requires statewide EpiPen staff training in K-8; enhances school readiness in responding to student anaphylaxis before, during, and after school*

ORLANDO, FL – [Senate Bill 1514](#), **Anaphylaxis in Public and Charter Schools**, introduced by **Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith (D - Orlando)** and **Representative Rita Harris (D - Orlando)** was signed into law late Tuesday, after passing both the Florida House and Senate unanimously during the 2025 session. The new law, which takes effect on July 1, 2025, requires all Florida K-8 public schools to be prepared to administer emergency epinephrine to students experiencing anaphylaxis during the school day or during school-sponsored activities happening before and after school hours. It provides training for school personnel in identifying and responding to allergic reactions and in the administration of emergency epinephrine. The bill's signing was a victory celebrated by local moms and advocacy groups who championed the measure for years.

Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith, offered the following comments after the signing:

"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 this new law will save lives and give parents peace of mind that their child can safely participate in school activities with personnel who are ready and able to administer EpiPens in case of a medical emergency. This would not have happened without the support of local moms like Sherry Isler, who spent years urging lawmakers to take action. The victory belongs to families like hers who made a real difference."

Representative Rita Harris provided the following comments on the bill signing:

"I'm thrilled that the governor has signed SB 1514 into law. I am thankful to Senator Smith, our bill's primary advocate Sherry Lin Isler, and all those who made this a possibility. This policy will go a long way to ensure that all students in both public and charter schools have access to before and after school programs while still maintaining their anaphylaxis emergency protocol. At the end of the day, this is about making sure that kids can be kids and be safe while at school."

Sherry Isler, an Orange County mom who led the charge in support of the legislation and [who testified before a Senate committee in April](#), provided the following comments:

"The signing and forthcoming implementation of this law 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, it is today that we celebrate this major victory for the health and safety of our students."

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

"We are thrilled to witness this bill become law and thank Senator Smith and Representative Harris for their advocacy on this critical issue. This is a major step forward in protecting the lives of students across Florida who live with life-threatening food allergies. This law upholds 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, the law created by 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 new law 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.

More on Sherry Isler's family story in the [Orlando Sentinel](#) and [WKMG](#).

More on Oakley Debb's story on [redsneakers.org](#)

