

[date]

Dear Senator (Assemblymember) _____:

My name is _____ and I live in your Senate (Assembly) district. I have a child (friend/family member) with life-threatening food allergies. If a miniscule amount of the food that they are allergic to enters their body, they are at immediate risk of having an anaphylactic reaction that could be fatal. Even contact with a food allergen by inhalation or touch can make many children with food allergies very ill. There are presently no state-wide or federal guidelines for New York schools to use to help manage the safety of food allergic children. I hope that you will vote to create better public policy to help keep children safe by supporting the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act (FAAMA).

FAAMA is important legislation for food allergic families in New York State to help provide safe school environments for the estimated 200,000 school-aged children in New York who suffer from food allergies. FAAMA will amend the public health law by requiring the New York State Commissioner of Health to develop model food allergy guidelines for schools. FAAMA will require schools to have food allergy policies, but will provide flexibility for schools to create policies consistent with their own unique school environment and culture.

I hope you support S298 (A4051) to help the 200,000 school age children with food allergies in New York remain safe when entrusted in the care of their teachers and school staff.

Should have any questions about food allergies and my concerns, please contact me at_____. Thank you for your time and support.

[name] and/or [children's names/family name]