

TESTIMONY OF

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Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Bruce Lott and I am the Vice President of State Government Relations for Mylan. Mylan supports House Bill 300 and urges the support of this committee.

Mylan is a leading manufacturer of generic and specialty medications that currently provides medicines in more than 140 countries and territories worldwide. We are also very proud St. Albans is home to several hundred Mylan employees and to one of our key manufacturing facilities. A Mylan subsidiary markets and distributes one of several epinephrine auto-injectors available in the United States.

Food allergies, which can sometimes lead to a life-threatening allergic reaction, or anaphylaxis, are a large and growing public health problem.^{1,3} Today, an estimated one out of 13 - approximately 6 million - children in the U.S. has a food allergy.² Approximately 1 out of 20 adults have a food allergy. And, food allergens are only one type of the allergens that can cause anaphylaxis. Insect stings, medicines, latex are also known to cause anaphylaxis in some people.

Unfortunately, over the past several years, there have been several high profile anaphylaxis-related tragedies around the country in schools and outside of schools. Deaths in Illinois (in 2011), Georgia and Virginia (in 2012), California, Texas and New York (in 2013) and Minnesota (in 2014) resulted in significant attention to the issue and much discussion on how to best address it.

- Studies done in school settings show that between 20 and 55 percent of anaphylactic events occurred in individuals who were not previously known to have an allergy.⁴
- Anaphylaxis to food allergies alone results in approximately 90,000 emergency department visits each year in the U.S.⁵
- Anaphylaxis results in approximately 1,500 deaths annually.⁶



Missouri law allows schools to stock epinephrine auto-injectors and to permit trained school personnel to administer them in an emergency. Today, 47 states have similar school access laws. More than 54,000 schools nationwide – including more than 330 here in Vermont - are stocking epinephrine auto-injectors received through a program offered by Mylan that provides free auto-injectors to schools.

H 300 will build upon Vermont’s school access law and expand access to this critical medication to day care, colleges and universities, summer and day camps, restaurants, theme parks and other places where children and adults could come into contact with potentially life-threatening allergens. This legislation would not require any entity to stock epinephrine auto-injectors, but would simply allow it.

Anaphylaxis can happen in many different places and prompt recognition of signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis is crucial. A recent survey showed that 1 out of 10 schools administered epinephrine auto-injectors to treat anaphylactic reactions last year, underscoring the positive impact of allowing entities to stock auto-injectors.

Failure to administer epinephrine early in the course of treatment has been repeatedly implicated in anaphylaxis fatalities.⁷ The more rapidly anaphylaxis develops, the more likely the reaction will be severe and potentially life-threatening. This is why this legislation to allow increased access is so important.

Oregon, Florida and Rhode Island passed legislation similar to H 300 in 2013 and 2014. In 2015, legislatures in 8 more states (Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Utah and West Virginia) have already sent similar bills to their Governors for signing and at least 20 other states are also considering legislation.

Mylan would like to work with you and other interested parties as you consider this important legislation. I am happy to take any questions you may have.

References

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