



Love for Giovanni Foundation

Anaphylaxis Education, Epinephrine Access & Emergency Response. *Epi First. Epi Everywhere™*

March 26, 2026

Carol Hagan McEntee, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
c/o Clerk Roberta DiMezza

HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov

Dear Representative McEntee and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7743, legislation that will ensure police vehicles in Rhode Island are equipped with epinephrine and that officers are trained to recognize and respond to anaphylaxis.

My name is Georgina Cornago, and I am the Founder and Executive Director of the Love for Giovanni Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding access to epinephrine and improving emergency response to life-threatening allergic reactions.

My advocacy began after the tragic loss of my 14-year-old son, Giovanni, to anaphylaxis. Since that time, I have worked extensively at the local, state, and federal levels to advance policies that ensure epinephrine is available in the critical moments when it is needed most.

H7743 represents a vital step forward in closing a well-documented gap in emergency response. Anaphylaxis is a rapid, life-threatening reaction that can become fatal within minutes. Epinephrine is the only medication that can reverse it, and delays in administration significantly increase the risk of death.

Police officers are often the first to arrive on scene, frequently before emergency medical services. Equipping and training them to administer epinephrine transforms those first moments into life-saving opportunities.

Importantly, many severe allergic reactions occur in individuals with no known history of allergy. Approximately 25% of anaphylactic reactions fall into this category. Anaphylaxis may be triggered not only by food, but also by insect stings, medications, unknown allergens, and increasingly Alpha-gal syndrome, a mammalian allergy associated with Lone Star tick bites.

Food allergies themselves are also on the rise. In 2024 alone, over 220,000 infants in the United States were born with one or more food allergies, and today approximately 1 in 10 adults and 1 in 13 students in every classroom is living with a food allergy. These realities make preparedness and immediate access to epinephrine essential.

In New York, legislation known as "Gio's Law" was enacted to address this exact gap by ensuring first responders are trained and equipped with epinephrine. This model has already been implemented successfully across multiple jurisdictions, including Westchester County, Suffolk County, and the Village of Lynbrook, all of which have reported life-saving interventions shortly after implementation once epinephrine was made available to responding officers. For this reason, I respectfully encourage consideration of aligning H7743 with the established Gio's Law framework. Rhode Island has a unique opportunity to become the first state outside of New York to adopt or formally recognize Gio's Law, helping to establish a clear and consistent national standard for anaphylaxis response.

If formal adoption is not feasible within the structure of the bill, I would strongly encourage including language acknowledging that the legislation builds upon what has become known as "Gio's Law," named in honor of Giovanni Cipriano, whose story continues to drive life-saving policy change.

Additionally, I support the inclusion of the following considerations to strengthen the bill:

- Use of the broader term "epinephrine devices" rather than "epinephrine auto-injectors," to account for emerging delivery methods such as nasal epinephrine
- Inclusion of clear training standards requiring officers to be trained in:
 - Recognition of signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis
 - Appropriate administration for adults and children
 - Storage and handling of epinephrine devices
 - Emergency follow-up procedures
- Consideration of liability protections for officers acting in good faith

H7743 is a practical, evidence-based policy that will save lives. When someone is experiencing anaphylaxis, the outcome often comes down to one simple question: was epinephrine there in time? Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to protecting the residents of Rhode Island. I would be honored to support this effort in any way as the legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

Georgina Cornago
Founder & Executive Director
Love for Giovanni Foundation
www.LoveforGiovanni.org

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