



April 29, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
State House Room 205
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairwoman Hagan McEntee,

On behalf of Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE), the nation's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life and health of individuals with food allergies, we write to express our strong support for HB 7743, also known as the Mandatory Carrying of Epinephrine by Police Officers Act.

FARE represents the thousands of Rhode Islanders with potentially life-threatening food allergies, including almost 20,000 children under the age of 18. Therefore, there is a critical need to help save lives by training and requiring law enforcement to carry epinephrine delivery systems.

Food allergies are a serious and potentially life-threatening public health concern, affecting approximately one in 13 children and millions of adults nationwide. Anaphylaxis, the most severe allergic reaction, can occur rapidly and requires immediate treatment with epinephrine. Policies that improve awareness, preparedness, and access to life-saving interventions are critical to protecting individuals at risk.

Since police officers are often the first to respond to an emergency, it is vital they are properly trained and equipped to react quickly when an individual is experiencing anaphylaxis. Epinephrine is the only first-line, life-saving treatment for anaphylaxis, and timely administration is critical. Yet many patients do not receive epinephrine in the community setting before arriving at the emergency department. Early administration of epinephrine is proven to lower hospitalization rates, improved outcomes, and reduced progression to life-threatening symptoms.

To ensure this legislation achieves its full life-saving potential, FARE respectfully urges the Committee to amend HB 7743 to explicitly allow for the use of all FDA-approved epinephrine delivery systems. As innovation in epinephrine delivery continues to advance in the form of auto-injectors, sublingual epinephrine, and needle-free nasal options, it is essential that first responders have access to the full range of safe, effective, and user-friendly products. Limiting the bill to a single type of delivery system could unintentionally restrict access, increase costs, and create barriers to rapid administration of allergy emergency situations.



We request the Committee's consideration and support for HB 7743, along with this important amendment. The state of Rhode Island has an opportunity in passing this bill to make a meaningful impact in safeguarding food-allergic Rhode Islanders, preventing unnecessary tragedy and sending a strong signal that Rhode Island prioritizes the health and safety of its residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the needs of the Rhode Island food allergic community.

Sincerely,

Sung Poblete, PhD, RN
CEO of FARE