

## FACT sheet for SB 09-226 :

### Sponsor:

- Senator Paula Sandoval

### Colorado students affected by food allergies:

- According to the Colorado Department of Education, in 2008 there were **818,443 students** enrolled in Colorado schools
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention stated in a press release on October 22, 2008 that **approximately 4% of United States children and teenagers under age 18 have a food or digestive allergy**
- Currently, there is no data collection for the number of school children in the State of Colorado with food or digestive allergies. Using national data from the CDC in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Education's statistics, it is estimated that **approximately 32,737 students in the State of Colorado** suffer from food or digestive allergies

### States that have passed legislation regarding food allergies and caring for food allergic children in school:

- Rhode Island
- New York
- New Jersey
- Connecticut
- Tennessee
- Vermont
- Washington
- Arizona

### States that are reviewing legislation this year to provide guidelines for schools with food allergic students:

- Colorado
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Nebraska
- Texas
- Virginia

National organizations who have given broad support for establishing guidelines for food-allergic students in the school setting:

- AAP – American Academy Pediatrics
- AMA American Medical Association
- CDC – Center for Disease Control
- AAAAI – American Academy Allergy, Asthma, Immunology
- ACAAI – American College Allergy, Asthma Immunology
- NAESP – National Association of Elementary School Principals
- NSBA – National School Boards Association
- NASN – National Association of School Nurses

National & Statewide support for SB09-226:

- FAAN – Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network: **servicing 560 Colorado families**
- FAI – Food Allergy Initiative – national allergy organization whose goal is to fund research that seeks a cure; to improve diagnosis and treatment; and to keep patients safe through education and advocacy
- Allergic Child – providing information and advocacy both nationally and internationally, located in **El Paso County, servicing over 5,000 families**
- Boulder Allergy Kids – support group **servicing 60 families in Boulder**
- I-CAN – Inspiring Children with Allergies Network – support group **servicing 40 families in Larimer and Weld Counties**
- Food Allergy Task Force – seeking solutions for food allergic students in **Poudre School District**
- MOSAIC– Mothers of Severely Allergic Infants and Children - support groups **servicing 187 families in Colorado Springs and Denver**
- PAAC – Parents of Asthmatic and Allergic Children - support group **servicing 150 families in Ft. Collins**
- Colorado Allergy and Asthma Society – **60 Board Certified, Colorado physicians** who specialize in Allergy/Immunology

# COLORADO ALLERGY & ASTHMA SOCIETY

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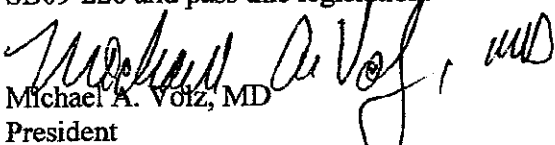
Colorado Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
Colorado General Assembly  
Subject: SB09-226

As President of the Colorado Allergy and Asthma Society, the proposed Bill SB09-226, "School Food Allergy Policy Education", has been reviewed and our society unequivocally supports this legislation.

The Colorado Allergy and Asthma Society have in excess of 60 members who are Board Certified Physicians in Allergy/Immunology. Food allergy is and has been a significant, important, and frequent issue we routinely evaluate, treat, and counsel. School aged children make up a substantial portion of these individuals. This problem is increasing in frequency and has important consequences on the safety, health, wellbeing, functioning, and financial costs of those affected and their families.

The Bill addresses the concerns and details of Allergy/Immunology specialists as advocates for the optimal safety and well being of our patients. Two of our longstanding members – S. Allan Bock, MD and John M. James, MD – both nationally known for their expertise, background, training, and experience in food allergy have been integral in advising on the details of this bill.

We entrust that your Committee and the Colorado General Assembly agree with the merits of SB09-226 and pass this legislation.

  
Michael A. Volz, MD  
President  
Colorado Allergy and Asthma Society