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February 7, 2012

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark Steven Kirk  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Durbin and Kirk:

The American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM), a specialty society of board-certified emergency medicine physicians with more than 6,500 members, commends you for introducing the ***School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act*** (S. 1884). This important legislation will allow school age children with food and other allergies to have access to critical, lifesaving medication.

More than 15% of school-aged children with food allergies have had a reaction in school and it is estimated that 25% of cases of anaphylaxis in schools involve children with previously unknown allergies. A 2001 study found that 28% of school-aged children, who died as the result of an allergic reaction, did so at a school where epinephrine was either not administered or was administered too late. The ***School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act*** would allow schools to be prepared to save the lives of children who are having an anaphylactic reaction by authorizing trained personnel to administer epinephrine.

Additionally, AAEM applauds your inclusion of a "Good Samaritan" provision to protect trained and authorized school employees who administer epinephrine to any student experiencing anaphylaxis. This provision is vital as a skilled health professional may not always be available during an emergency of this type. Appropriate training for the early recognition of symptoms and prompt interventions from school personnel is vital to saving the lives of those school children with food and other allergies.

If the American Academy of Emergency Medicine can be of assistance in bringing this legislation to reality, please feel free to contact Kathleen Ream, AAEM's Government Affairs Director, at 571-213-5662.

Sincerely yours,

Howard Blumstein, MD, FAAEM

**American Academy of Emergency Medicine**

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