

Food allergies have reached epidemic levels

**32**  
million  
Americans affected

**6**  
million  
children

**50%** 


Prevalence of childhood food allergies increased **50 percent** over the past two decades

Without a cure, or even *treatments*, food allergies create enormous stress for patients—and our healthcare system

**avoidance  
+  
epinephrine**

With no treatments, patients' only options are **avoidance** and **epinephrine**. Even trace amounts of allergens can cause a reaction, and just a single mistake can cause severe illness or even death.

**Food allergies are overburdening our healthcare system**

Every three minutes, a reaction results in an emergency room visit 

Annually, **200,000 people** require emergency medical care for reactions 

Procedures to treat anaphylaxis increased **380 percent** between 2007 and 2016 

**NIH spends only \$62 million each year—just \$.19 per person—on food allergy research.**

The FASTER Act lays the critical groundwork for jumpstarting the research we need to find treatments and a cure. It's based on recommendations from a November 2016 panel convened by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. The bill:



**Requires the federal government to gather comprehensive information about who has food allergies, what food allergies they have, and what types occur most often**

- Since an existing data collection vehicle will be used, there is a minimal cost impact
- Research will be more effectively managed if all stakeholders have a common set of food allergy facts



**Requires NIH to estimate the current toll on America's economy due to food allergy-related care and exposure**



**Updates allergen labeling laws to include sesame. It would also require updated labeling for new allergens as scientific evidence emerges.**

- Food producers are prepared—they already label for sesame in other countries
- Food trends create allergy trends. This change allows us to more quickly react to new threats.

**Food allergies have reached epidemic levels. The FASTER Act (H.R. 2117) is the first step to ending it. Please co-sponsor this bill.**

For questions, contact Jon Hoffman, Director, Advocacy and External Affairs, at [jhoffman@foodallergy.org](mailto:jhoffman@foodallergy.org) or 424-672-3261.