**Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education and Research (FASTER) Act**

**Talking Points**

* H.R. 2117, The Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education and Research (FASTER) Act, a package of federal policy changes that will improve the health, safety and inclusion of the 32 million Americans living with food allergies, was introduced by Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA) in April 2019.
* The Senate version, S. 3451, was introduced by Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) and Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) in March of 2020.
* The policy proposals in the legislation (H.R. 2117) are based on the recommendations from a November 2016 consensus panel convened by the National Academy of Medicine. This landmark study recognized food allergy as a critical public safety issue and provided recommendations to guide federal policymakers in Congress and the Executive Branch.
* The introduction of the FASTER Act is the culmination of more than a year of legislator education, policy refinement and advocacy by FARE and advocates, resulting in legislation that will improve the quality of life for millions of Americans with food allergies.
* It is encouraging to see partners in Congress who recognize the importance of understanding the financial burden of living with food allergies and protecting the food allergy community.
* Food allergy is a growing public health crisis for which there is no cure, and the FASTER Act will provide crucial support for patients whose only current course of treatment is avoidance and a trip to the emergency room.”
* The HOUSE version of the FASTER Act would:
* Collect national information on Americans’ exposure to food allergens and the prevalence of food allergies for specific allergens.
* Update allergen labeling laws to include sesame and add new labeling requirements for additional allergens as new scientific evidence emerges.
* Expand current guidance on patient experience data to include food allergies.
* Study the economic costs of food allergies.
* The SENATE version of the FASTER Act would:
* Update allergen labeling laws to include sesame
* Ask Health and Human Service to submit a report to Congress on identifying effective new treatments and cures for food allergies, provide an update on data collection challenges in the food allergy space, and strategies to overcome these challenges.
* There have been other bills on sesame, none that address the commissioner’s latitude to add more allergens, or any of the other components.
* With regard to the part of the bill that deals with adding food allergies to the FDA’s priorities, this component addresses the requirement the FDA has to submit reports to Congress on patient experience because of 21st Century Cures.
* FARE believes the FASTER Act provides an opportunity to put politics aside and hopes Congress will move quickly to pass the legislation, prioritizing the health of millions of Americans living with food allergies.
* **HOUSE: The bill has been passed out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and we are looking for co-sponsors to ensure the bill gets a floor vote. Please sign on as co-sponsor today.**
* **SENATE: We are building support for this Senate bill, and we ask that you please contact Conor Sheehey in Senator Tim Scott’s office and become a co-sponsor today.**