

Resolution 043

A Resolution to Advance An Allergy-Safe Campus Community

Sponsored by: Senator Fahey

**Co-Sponsored by: Senator Birth, Senator Bowman, Senator Crnkovich,
Senator Hermann, Senator Moore**

Whereas,

Many college students exhibit mild to life-threatening allergies to common food allergens including milk, eggs, peanuts, soy, wheat, tree nuts, shellfish, fish, and sesame.¹

Whereas,

The college experience presents a vulnerable time period for students with known or unknown allergies because students are exposed to different allergens in new dining options, recipes, and ingredients on a college campus.

Whereas,

The Pryzbyla Center Eatery, catered by Chartwells Food Service, offers labels for “vegan,” “vegetarian” and “well-balanced” dish options, but no specific labels for common allergens outside of the G8 station.

Whereas,

Dining vendors including Chik-fil-A, Which Wich, and others utilize refined peanut oil, pesto, varieties of sauces, and other recipes with common allergens that may not be immediately apparent to college students.

Whereas,

The Dine On Campus app offers ingredient lists for many dishes offered in the Eatery and food court, but no specific warnings for the presence of common allergens. The app also experiences delays and vague ingredient information at times.

Whereas,

An anaphylactic reaction may occur moments to hours after exposure or consumption of the triggering allergen, and an epinephrine auto-injector remains as the only emergency antidote. The most common brands of auto-injectors include the EpiPen and the Auvi-Q models.

Whereas,

The only resource for emergency epinephrine auto-injectors on the Catholic University campus is the Student Health Center and a student’s personal supply of epinephrine auto-injectors.

¹ <https://www.foodallergy.org/living-food-allergies/food-allergy-essentials/common-allergens>

Whereas,

The Epinephrine Amendment Act of 2015 (DC Law 21-27) mandates “all public and public charter schools to stock a minimum of two undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors and to have a minimum of two staff members trained in the identification of anaphylaxis and the emergency use of epinephrine auto-injectors.”²

Whereas,

Comparable universities including University of Maryland, Georgetown University, George Mason University, and Loyola University Maryland have expanded emergency epinephrine auto-injector training programs to campus police officers, culinary staff, managers, and other campus staff members.

Whereas,

Comparable universities including University of Maryland have implemented similar epinephrine mandates where public EpiPens are housed in cases which trigger alarms upon opening in order to notify a trained staff member that someone needs help.

Whereas,

Chapter 23D of the Code of the District of Columbia, ensures “public access to defibrillators and epinephrine,” hereby recognizing the present need for emergency epinephrine auto-injectors in public spaces.

Be it enacted that,

The Student Government Association Senate, acting in its official capacity as the representative of the undergraduate student body of The Catholic University of America, hereby requests...

1. The placement of emergency epinephrine auto-injectors in campus cafeteria spaces in the 2022-2023 school year, to be replaced before expiration and maintained by University facilities.
2. The implementation of labels for common allergens in the University dining hall, as well as an establishment of robust allergen warnings on the Dine On Campus app.
3. An examination, and reform if needed, of the timeliness of emergency responders on campus in delivering epinephrine auto-injectors in the case of emergency.
4. An expansion of epinephrine auto-injector awareness and training programs to Department of Public Safety officers, dining hall staff, Resident Assistants and other campus staff members.
5. An expansion of allergy awareness at Orientation for incoming freshman students through an infographic that offers information about dining hall options and advice about living on campus with dietary restrictions.

² “Allergy Management in Schools,” Office of the State Superintendent of Education, <https://osse.dc.gov/page/allergy-management-schools#:~:text=To%20ensure%20students%20with%20life,members%2C%20outside%20of%20the%20school>

Agreed to by a vote of _____ yeas to _____ nays on this date: _____ with _____ abstaining and _____ not present.

Abigail Anger
President of the Student Government Association

Monica Wallace
Vice President of the Student Government Association

