

**From:** rszot@snet.net [mailto:rszot@snet.net]

**Sent:** Thursday, October 20, 2016 10:49 AM

**To:** Phillips, Jeanie; Rosemary

**Subject:** Task Force to Study Life Threatening Food Allergies in schools

Hello Task Force,

My name is Rosemary Szot, and I am the parent who spearheaded legislation, introduced by my legislator Dimetrios Giannaros, which became PA 05-104. I began this journey when my son was in Kindergarten, and there were no state guidelines, and certainly no school policies. It was not an easy journey. I am listed in the acknowledgements of the original 2006 guidelines. I was also the co-event planner of the Food Allergy in Schools Summit, 2006, where the original guidelines were rolled out. My comments on the original guidelines are simply to let you know that I was only one voice, of many on the committee, and there were many heated debates, especially surrounding promotion of 504 plans, peanut bans and bussing. In the end, mostly due to budget constraints and timelines, the guidelines were published, but were not perfect, and did not include everything I had hoped for, BUT, I was extremely proud of the accomplishment. My son is now a senior in High School, and our next hurdle will be selecting a college that can accommodate his disability. I ask the committee to not end the discussion at grade twelve, but to expand what I started, and to continue to support our youth as they step out of High School and continue on their educational journey.

Thank you,

Rosemary Szot

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