

{Date}

Dear Congressman/Senator _____:

You've heard the phrase "fly the friendly skies". While it may be an effective promotional slogan, the skies aren't so friendly for more than 4 million Americans and their families who have nut allergies. As you're probably aware, nut allergies can be fatal for sufferers.

In fact, during the summer of 2014, four passengers had anaphylactic reactions to nuts on board flights that resulted in emergency landings - landings that impacted the lives of hundreds of travelers and cost the airlines thousands of dollars. These types of allergic reactions to nuts (peanuts, cashews, pistachios, etc.) can be caused through ingestion, contact and/or inhalation. Imagine you're a nut allergic airline passenger flying across the country trapped in a cabin at 35,000 feet in an environment that could jeopardize your life.

While we don't completely understand what's causing the dramatic increase in life-threatening food allergies, we do know there are steps that can be taken -- and must be taken -- to lessen the likelihood of a reaction, or worse, a possible death and a costly emergency landing.

We know that you share our concern about the health of your constituents and Americans everywhere, so we urge you to support legislation that calls for the following measures:

- Require airlines to have clear, consistent policies that address the needs of the food allergic traveler.
- Allow affected travelers time to pre-board flights to wipe down seats, seat belts, tray tables, and surrounding areas.
- Make pre-flight announcements requesting passengers to refrain from eating nut products due to passengers with life-threatening nut allergies
- Call on airlines to establish a nut free section or buffer zone around allergic passengers. (How large that zone needs to be should be determined by nut allergic passenger and flight crew.)
- Finally, require all airlines to carry epinephrine auto-injectors. Case in point, there've been two situations within recent months where medical personnel had difficulty using epinephrine supplied in airline medical kits on individuals who were in anaphylaxis.

Let's make America the world's leader in protecting the health of nut allergic airline passengers. Because even one life lost to anaphylaxis is too many. Thank you.

Sincerely,