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May 21, 2024

Senator Mantzavinos, Senator Paradee, and Members of the Senate Banking, Business, Insurance & Technology Committee,

The Medical Society of Delaware supports HB 274. MSD adopted a resolution in November 2022 to “Address Health Disparities in Food Allergy Prevention”. IgE-mediated food allergies (immune system acts abnormally when exposed to one or more specific food) develop in greater than 8% of Delaware infants and affect 10.8% of Americans. Additionally, several disparities exist in food-allergy burdens, access to specialized diets, and food-allergy emergency department visits. We agree that early introduction of allergenic proteins into the infant’s diet in the first year of life is the most promising strategy to prevent food allergies.

Thank you for your committed health of citizens of Delaware, especially our youngest citizens. By supporting this bill, you are lowering the risk of allergies and not only saving long term costs but saving lives.

Sincerely,

Robert Varipapa, MD  
President, Medical Society of Delaware

Richard Henderson, MD  
Chair, MSD Government Affairs Committee

**References:**

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2. Warren C, Bartell T, Nimmagadda SR, Bilaver LA, Koplin J, Gupta RS. Socioeconomic determinants of food allergy burden: A clinical introduction. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol*. 2022;129(4):407-416. doi:10.1016/j.anai.2022.07.021
3. Scurlock AM, Brown E, Davis CM. Food insecurity in children and adults with food allergies. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol*. 2022;129(4):424-429. doi:10.1016/j.anai.2022.08.012