

- Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee.
- Today, I sit before you to discuss a vital piece of legislation which I am happy to have Congresswoman Dingell on as a co-lead. This legislation is inspired by the life of Dillon Mueller, a young man whose legacy continues to resonate in the hearts of those who knew him and even those who didn't. Dillon's Law is more than just a legal framework; it's a beacon of hope that has already saved countless lives and has the potential to save many more across our great nation.

### **The Story of Dillon Mueller**

- Dillon Mueller was not just any teenager from Mishicot, Wisconsin. He was a bright student full of life, dreams, and aspirations. Sadly, Dillon's life was tragically cut short as a young and energetic teenager due to a severe allergic reaction to a bee sting, a fate that no one should have to endure. His parents, in the face of unimaginable grief, chose not to let their son's death be in vain. Instead, they embarked on a journey to ensure that no other family would suffer a similar tragedy.
- In their quest for change, Dillon's parents championed the cause of anaphylaxis awareness and prevention. They tirelessly advocated for the legislation that has come to be known as Dillon's Law. This legislation, enacted in states such as Wisconsin, Indiana, and Minnesota, has been a shining beacon of hope for those who suffer from severe allergies and their families.

### **Understanding Anaphylaxis**

- Before we delve into the specifics of the federal version of Dillon's Law, it's essential to grasp the gravity of the issue it seeks to address. Anaphylaxis is a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction that can occur within minutes of exposure to allergens such as insect stings, certain foods, or medications. Each year in the United States, between 500 to 1,000 fatal cases of anaphylaxis are reported. This condition also leads to hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and emergency room visits annually. The numbers alone underscore the urgency of taking meaningful action.

### **Dillon's Law in Action**

- Dillon's Law, at its core, is a commonsense response to a life-threatening problem. It empowers ordinary citizens to become heroes when seconds count. Under this law, states are incentivized to allow individuals to be trained and certified to carry and administer Epinephrine, a life-saving medication, to someone experiencing a severe allergic reaction. This rapid intervention can mean the difference between life and death for the affected individual.
- What makes Dillon's Law even more impactful is its potential to serve as a model for other states. By offering grant preferences to states that adopt similar legislation, we can create a nationwide network of trained individuals ready to spring into action during critical moments.

### **Preventative Health Services**

- Preventative health services are at the heart of Dillon's Law. By incentivizing states through grant prioritization, we encourage them to establish robust training programs that certify individuals to administer Epinephrine. These programs are not just cost-effective; they are also quick and efficient. With proper training,

ordinary citizens can become the first line of defense against anaphylaxis-related fatalities.

## **Civil Liability Protections**

- Dillon's Law goes a step further by requiring states to implement civil liability protections for those trained in administering Epinephrine. This provision ensures that individuals who step up to help in an emergency are not burdened with unwarranted legal consequences. It's about fostering a culture of compassion and responsibility, where people are encouraged to lend a helping hand without fear of retribution.
- Dillon's Law has garnered support from a multitude of organizations dedicated to healthcare and public welfare. The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE), American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and the Elijah-Alavi Foundation are among the many champions of this legislation. Their endorsement is a testament to the significance and effectiveness of Dillon's Law in saving lives.

## **Closing**

- In closing, Dillon's Law is more than just a legal framework; it's a symbol of hope, compassion, and preparedness. It embodies the values we hold dear as a society—helping those in need, protecting our children, and working together to make our communities safer. Dillon Mueller's legacy lives on through this legislation, and it is our duty to ensure that his memory continues to inspire us.
- As we move forward, let us remember that heroes can be ordinary people like you and me, armed with knowledge and a willingness to act. Dillon's Law empowers these heroes, giving them the tools and protections they need to save lives. Together, let us stand with

Dillon's parents and all those who have turned personal tragedy into a force for good. Let us make Dillon's Law a reality in every state, so that no family has to endure the heartbreak of losing a loved one to anaphylaxis ever again.

- Thank you, and may we all be inspired by Dillon's spirit of courage and compassion as we work to pass and implement this life-saving legislation across our great nation.