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*From State Representative Sara Feigenholtz*

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## **Feigenholtz Legislation to protect against Dangerous Food Allergic reactions passes House**

*HB2510 requires training to limit preventable life threatening food allergy encounters while dining out*

SPRINGFIELD – In an effort to reduce the number of preventable fatal food allergy reactions in Illinois, the State House of Representatives passed legislation that will require accredited food allergen training in Illinois restaurants and food service establishments.

House Bill 2510, sponsored by State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D- Chicago) is an Illinois Restaurant Association effort to amend the Food Handling Act to require food service establishments have at least one certified food service sanitation manager on hand during operating hours who has undergone training that follows nationally recognized industry standards for allergen safety and allergen awareness.

Statistics show the majority of fatal food allergic reactions occur outside the home and effect one in 13 children in the United States.

“This training will help prevent food allergy reactions from occurring in dining establishments in Illinois. Allergic reactions can have very serious consequences. Ensuring that customers are properly informed about ingredients before they order and avoiding cross contamination before the food leaves the kitchen is the primary goal of this legislation.” said Rep. Feigenholtz who worked with the Illinois Restaurant Association and other groups to craft the bill.

“Customer safety should always be the top priority of restaurants. It is our goal to increase confidence of the many families who suffer from food allergies and avoid dining out to avoid risk,” said Illinois Restaurant Association President Sam Toia.

The National Restaurant Association estimates revenue loss from food allergy families who don’t dine out at \$45 million per week across the U.S.

Currently Massachusetts, Michigan, Rhode Island, Virginia and Maryland have enacted laws to improve food allergy safety and awareness by requiring training for restaurants.

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