



Advocates Laud Passage of Bill to Track Alpha-gal Syndrome in Virginia

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RICHMOND, VA (March 5, 2024) – The Alpha-gal Alliance Action Fund and Two Alpha Gals today lauded final passage in the Virginia Senate of HB 93, a bill that directs the Virginia Board of Health to add alpha-gal syndrome to the list of diseases that must be reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Alpha-gal syndrome is a life-altering and sometimes fatal allergy, which the CDC has identified as a “growing threat to public health.” According to Sharon Forsyth, co-founder of the Alpha-gal Alliance Action Fund, “This is a giant step towards understanding the extent, severity, economic and health burden of this tick-borne allergy.”

“As advocates for those affected by alpha-gal syndrome, we express our deepest gratitude to Delegate Wachsmann and the rest of the Virginia Assembly for passing this measure. Virginia is a hotspot of alpha-gal syndrome. In some parts of the state, up to 2% of the local population is affected. Documenting the true incidence and distribution of alpha-gal syndrome is the first step to identifying clusters of cases and planning public health interventions, such as physician education, public awareness, and tick-bite prevention initiatives.”

HB 93 was introduced in the Virginia General Assembly by Delegate Otto Wachsmann, who himself has suffered from the disease, and passed through committees and both chambers of the Assembly without opposition. Governor Youngkin is expected to sign the measure into law.

“We thank Delegate Wachsmann for introducing this bill and for supporting the alpha-gal community,” said Debbie Nichols and Candice Matthis, co-founders of Two Alpha Gals. “We can’t treat what we don’t track. This bill will help us understand what areas of Virginia are hit hardest by alpha-gal and enable health agencies to respond. We expect it will have a broad, positive impact for the alpha-gal community.”

“Passage of this bill makes Virginia just the second state, after Arkansas, to require mandatory reporting of Alpha-gal cases. “HB 93 puts Virginia at the forefront of tracking this rapidly expanding disease” points out Julie Sibbing, co-founder of the Alpha-gal Alliance Action Fund.”

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Alpha-gal Alliance Action Fund (formerly the Alpha-gal Syndrome Awareness Campaign), is a newly created nonprofit with the mission to advance policy solutions that improve the lives of

people affected by alpha-gal syndrome. We work by mobilizing the alpha-gal community, educating the public and lawmakers, and lobbying for policy change. AGA Action Fund is the sister organization of Alpha-gal Alliance. Our founders are Julie Sibbing, a conservationist with decades of policy experience, and Sharon Forsyth, creator of [Alpha-gal Information](#), the most extensive resource on alpha-gal syndrome.”

After being diagnosed with alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) in 2019, Candice Matthis and Debbie Nichols started blogging as Two Alpha Gals to raise awareness of their shared condition. Their campaign has grown into a social media campaign, podcast, and mentorship program designed to help others living with AGS navigate the complicated lifestyle. Both women live in the New River Valley of Virginia. For more information or help living with AGS, visit them at www.TwoAlphaGals.com.