Cosponsor H.R. 1178, the Alpha-gal Allergen Inclusion Act (AGAIA) of 2025

Introduced by Rep. Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ)
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The Alpha-gal Allergen Inclusion Act helps address the growing challenge posed by alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) – an emerging tick bite-associated allergy to alpha-gal, a sugar found in most mammals. ***The CDC estimates that 450,000 Americans have AGS, making it the 10th most common allergy.*** *People with AGS have severe and sometimes life-threatening reactions to products made from mammals or with ingredients derived from mammals including many foods, drugs, personal care and other products. This legislation aims to modernize our labeling laws by codifying alpha-gal as a major food allergen.*

Background: Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) is a serious, sometimes life-threatening allergy to a sugar found in most mammals and products made from mammals – including meat (like beef, pork, and lamb), milk and dairy products, gelatin and many other items. According to a CDC study, 75% of people with AGS experience life-threatening anaphylactic reactions. In areas of high AGS prevalence, reactions to the alpha-gal sugar can be the number one cause of anaphylaxis in adults and adolescents, accounting for a third of all cases, more than all other food allergies combined.

Alpha-gal syndrome develops after tick bites. In the U.S., most cases are associated with lone star ticks, which are most common in the southern, midwestern, and mid-Atlantic states. In some areas, 3% or more of the population is affected. AGS is the number one adult-onset allergy in these regions. The CDC reports that AGS is a growing public health threat and estimates that 450,000 people in the U.S. have it, making it the 10th most common allergy. Due to growing lone star tick populations, AGS cases are growing at an alarming rate. The CDC reports the number of new suspected cases of AGS is increasing by more than 15,000 a year.

What AGAIA Would Do: The Alpha-gal Allergen Inclusion Act would codify alpha-gal as a major food allergen under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act, effective for products introduced into interstate commerce 18 months on or after the Act is enacted. This legislation would help meet the urgent need to easily identify unsafe food for those with AGS by requiring labeling in plain language on packaged foods sold in the U.S., in the same way that the other top allergens – milk, egg, peanut, tree nuts, wheat, soy, fish, shellfish, and sesame are already labeled.

Why It's Needed: Alpha-gal in the form of meat products, lard, dairy, gelatin, hundreds of mammalian byproducts and additives is pervasive in foods and many other products. Compared to other allergens, mammal derived ingredients are much more difficult to identify. There are hundreds of these ingredients with obscure names like lipase and oleic acid. Virtually nobody is familiar with these ingredients, no comprehensive list of these exists, and many can be either mammal or plant-derived, leading to further consumer confusion. As a result, lack of transparent disclosure of mammal-derived ingredients in foods results in a disproportionate impact on people affected by AGS compared to those with allergies to more easily identified allergens. As with management for any food allergy, AGS management is based on allergen avoidance – which is made difficult by the lack of adequate labeling for mammalian-derived sources in foods, medications, and vaccines.

THE ASK: Ask your member of the U.S. House of Representatives to become a cosponsor of the Alpha-gal Allergen Inclusion Act – H.R. 1178, which enjoys support from 44 members including:

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Endorsed by: Alpha-gal Alliance, Alpha-gal Alliance Action Fund, Alpha-gal Foundation, the National Society of Professional Surveyors, The Society of Thoracic Surgeons, FARE, Tick-Borne Conditions United, Center for Lyme Action, Project Lyme, the Elijah-Alavi Foundation, LymeTV, FAACT, the Asthma and Allergy Network, the International FPIES Association, Alpha-gal Encouragers, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, AllergyStrong, FOODiversity, Food Equality Initiative, The Foundation for AAIR, LivLyme, Lymedisease.org, and the Bay Area Lyme Foundation.