

Michelle Black
Topeka, KS
January 26, 2017

Representative Vickrey
Room 276-W
Kansas State Capital
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Representative Vickrey:

I am writing to ask for your support for HB2103. My son is 12 years old now but when he was 10 years old he became very sick. Over the previous 2 years his symptoms progressively got worse until he no longer wanted to eat because he would choke, have food get stuck in his throat or he would vomit when he ate, even soft easy to swallow food. After many tests which included allergy tests and an endoscopy he was diagnosed with eosinophilic esophagitis. He used steroids to heal his esophagus but was still listed as failure to thrive because he had lost so much weight and was struggling to get enough nutrition on a daily basis. Because his allergy was not known amino acid based formula was prescribed to give him the nutrition he needed on a daily basis. We have private insurance so the formula was not covered. He needed the formula 3-4 times a day and it cost about \$5.71 a serving, that is \$685.20 a month out of our pocket to keep our son healthy. A year and a half later we were able to determine his allergy. We now know he esophagus only reacts to dairy and he no longer needs formula on a daily basis.

Please support HB2103 by having insurance support the coverage of formula can make a difference for a person who needs nutritional support when they cannot get it from food.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,

Michelle Black