

Brynleigh's Act-SUPPORT-SB0549

To the Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

As your constituents, we are writing in support of the **Maryland Seizure Safe School Act**, or Brynleigh's Act, sponsored by Senator Young in the Senate and Representative Kerr in the House. This state legislation would ensure all school personnel, including nurses, teachers, and volunteers, are not only prepared but can recognize and respond appropriately and efficiently to students experiencing seizures.

Our daughter, Mia, was diagnosed with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex en utero. This genetic condition typically accompanies an epilepsy diagnosis. We are celebrating Mia's first birthday next week, and she has thankfully not yet experienced a seizure. We worry about it daily, and know that once she is in school, we will depend on the adults in the building to be on the lookout for abnormal activity.

It is not enough for school nurses to be the only ones with that training. Approximately 1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy in their lifetime, 1 in 10 people will have a single seizure in their lifetime, and approximately 7,900 Maryland children currently have an active epilepsy diagnosis, but there is only one nurse per 913 students. It is of vital importance that school staff know how to recognize and respond to a seizure should one occur in their classroom, school bus, or specialized area.

The Brynleigh Act will ensure that all school personnel have some familiarity with seizure recognition, and in doing so, will make all our children safer in their school environment. Five other states have passed similar bills, and many other states will follow. We hope that Maryland will, as always, lead by example. Please support this legislation, for our family and others like us.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have and to support you in any way regarding this important Act.

Sincerely,
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