



20 January 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing in support of the Maryland Seizure Safe School Act, or Brynleigh Act, which calls for state legislation to ensure all school personnel are not only prepared but can recognize and respond appropriately and efficiently to students experiencing seizures. 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 7900 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. Quick response to a seizure is vital, and cannot wait for a nurse to arrive. It is not enough for school nurses to be the only ones with that training. Many students will have their first seizure while in school, so this is not just a matter of following a plan that is already in place.

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. Four other states have passed similar bills, and many other states will follow. We hope that Maryland will, as always, lead by example. We stand with the Epilepsy Foundation in supporting this legislation.

The STXBP1 Foundation is a parent-led 501(c)3 advocacy organization. We are dedicated to raising awareness and finding a cure for STXBP1 Encephalopathy, a rare neurodevelopmental condition and genetic epilepsy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Charlene Son Rigby'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charlene Son Rigby
President