



TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Ronald N. Young

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
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DATE: February 21, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 549 – *Education – Public Schools – Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh Act)*

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 549.

Senate Bill 549 requires local boards of education, beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, to address the health care needs of students with seizure disorders. The local board must, at a minimum, have at each public school either two school employees trained in seizure disorders or a full-time registered nurse. In addition, each public school must provide annual staff training on seizure disorders. The parent or guardian of a student diagnosed with a seizure disorder must collaborate with school personnel to create a seizure action plan and provide medication and authorization for treatment so that the school can appropriately respond to the needs of the student. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, a public school must also provide an age-appropriate seizure education program on seizures and seizure disorders to all students.

Staff and student education are important as seizure disorders can be life-threatening, if not managed properly, and can also be traumatic for students and staff that witness a seizure and are not able to properly respond or understand what is happening. Enacting the provisions reflected in Senate Bill 549 will ensure that schools are equipped, and staff and students educated on seizure disorders. It will not only protect the health and well-being of students with seizure disorders but also benefit the entire school community. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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