



TO: The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Ways and Means Committee
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Ken Kerr

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: January 20, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 370 – *Education – Public and Nonpublic Schools – Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh's 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 House Bill 370.

House Bill 370 requires local boards of education and authorizes nonpublic schools, beginning in the 2022-2023 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. Nonpublic schools are authorized to require two school employees to be trained. 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 2022-2023 school year, a public school must also provide an age-appropriate seizure education program on seizures and seizure disorders to all students and nonpublic schools are authorized to provide similar education programs.

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 House Bill 370 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:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000