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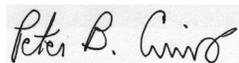
To whom it may concern,

We are writing in support of the Maryland Seizure Safe School Act, or Brynleigh's Act, which calls for state legislation to 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. 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.

As Director of the Clinical Center for Adults with Neuro-Developmental Disabilities and the TSC Center of Maryland, many of our patients are adolescents and teenagers currently attending Maryland public and private schools. The need for a school safety plan for seizures is an imperative.

Brynleigh's 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.

We stand with the Epilepsy Foundation in supporting this legislation.



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