



*Seizure Action Plans save lives
Do you have one?*

December 31, 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, 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.

The Seizure Action Plan (SAP) Coalition was formed to educate people with epilepsy, their caregivers and healthcare professionals about seizure emergency rescue protocols and the importance of personalized seizure action plans. The partnering organizations include the [Dravet Syndrome Foundation](#) (DSF), the [Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome \(LGS\) Foundation](#) and the [Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance](#) (TS Alliance). The mission of DSF is to aggressively raise funds for Dravet syndrome and related epilepsies; support and fund research; increase awareness; and provide support to affected individuals and families. The LGS Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of those impacted by LGS through research, education and family support programs. The TS Alliance is dedicated to finding a cure for tuberous sclerosis complex, while improving the lives of those affected.

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 appreciate that the state of Maryland leads by example. We stand with the Epilepsy Foundation in supporting this legislation.

Sincerely,
Dravet Syndrome Foundation
Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome Foundation
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance

