



TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Members, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Ken Kerr

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
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DATE: January 20, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 136 – *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 136.

House Bill 136 requires local boards of education and authorizes nonpublic schools, beginning in the 2023-2024 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 two school personnel trained in seizure recognition and response methods. In addition, each public school must provide training every two years to school personnel, either in-person or online, on seizure recognition and response methods. 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. And lastly, the bill provides civil liability immunity for a person who responds in good faith to a student experiencing a seizure or seizure disorder symptoms.

Staff and student education is important as seizure disorders can be life-threatening, if not managed properly. It 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 136 will ensure that schools are equipped, and staff are educated on seizure disorders. It will not only protect the health and well-being of students with seizure disorders but will also benefit the entire school community. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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