



## **Support: HB 0136 Education - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh's Act)**

1/17/2022

Maryland House of Delegates  
Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and fellow pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Chesapeake Chapter, I am writing to express our support of **HB 0136 Education - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh's Act)**.

Epilepsy is a broad term used for conditions that affect the brain that is characterized by recurrent and unpredictable seizures which affect a variety of mental and physical functions. About 0.6% of children aged have active epilepsy in the United States. According to the CDC, there are over 470,000 children living with epilepsy in the US and, over 7,900 students in Maryland are diagnosed with epilepsy. For many children, epilepsy is easily controlled with medications, however for some control can be challenging and a seizure could occur at any time. Because children spend a significant part of the day in school teachers, office staff, bus drivers, and others are likely to witness a seizure. In addition **12** states have enacted Seizure Safe Schools legislation – Kentucky, Indiana, Texas, Illinois, New Jersey, Virginia, Washington, Oklahoma, Colorado, Alabama, Nebraska, and Minnesota.

This legislation would ensure that school personnel, including nurses, teachers, and volunteers, are prepared to care for a student experiencing a seizure, training them recognize a seizure and respond appropriately and efficiently. School nurses already have this training, however there are 913 students per school nurse in Maryland (National Education Association, 2019). School nurses cannot and should not be the sole provider responsible for recognizing and responding to a seizure. Even more importantly, the legislation will allow a student to have a seizure action plan on file. This action plan would be available and distributed to any school personnel or volunteer who is responsible for the supervision or care of a child diagnosed with a seizure disorder. The seizure action plan would direct the treatment of an individual's seizure by the student's personal health care provider. The seizure action plan would allow the nurse to administer necessary and life-saving medication according to the prescriber's guidelines.

Lastly, this bill will bring awareness to the entire educational community including teacher's, aides, bus drivers, volunteers, office staff and even student peers. This would allow students living with epilepsy or a seizure disorder to feel safe in school and decrease the stigma associated with a seizure disorder allowing them reach their full academic potential.



For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their support to **HB 0136 Education - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh's Act)**.

The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to you for your attention to these crucial issues. The members of Chesapeake Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners are committed to improving the health and advocating for of Maryland's pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Deborah Busch, the Chesapeake Chapter President at 410-614-6284 or [dbusch1@jhu.edu](mailto:dbusch1@jhu.edu).

Sincerely,

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