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SB0549

Education - Public Schools - Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh Act)- SUPPORT

March 3, 2020

Dear Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

I am writing in support of SB0549, the Seizure Safe School Bill (Brynleigh's Act). As a pediatric neurologist and epilepsy specialist practicing in Maryland and DC, I work closely with my parents, families, and the larger school community on the importance of having a safe school environment for children with epilepsy.

SB0549 is an important legislation to provide resources and education to teachers, school nurses and school administrators to assist in the timely identification of seizures and get children the appropriate medical care needed. Members of the school community are often the first line responders in emergency situations at school. With seizures, time to treatment for seizures is of critical importance and there should be no delay in care. While waiting for emergency services to arrive, it is imperative that school nurses, teachers, and administrators feel comfortable with seizure safety, administration of seizure rescue medication and have a documented seizure action plan provided by physician.

I currently train school staff throughout the country on early identification of seizures, seizure types, emergency situations, seizure safety, and administration of rescue medication. I can attest to the fact that there is shortage in knowledge regarding these issues and urgency to learn more. I believe that this bill will a step towards addressing training available to school communities and providing safe, healthy environments for all of our children.

Sincerely,

Archana Pasupuleti, MD
Pediatric Neurologist and Epilepsy Specialist