

February 3, 2022

Senator Paul Pinsky, Chair  
Senate Education, Health, and Environment Affairs Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Pinsky and committee members:

My name is Dr. Archana Pasupuleti and I am a pediatric neurologist and epileptologist in the Washington, D.C. and Maryland area. I also serve as the Epilepsy Foundation's Professional Advisory Board's Advocacy Committee Chair. I would like to thank you for providing an opportunity for public testimony on the importance of Senate Bill 299/House Bill 136, also known as *Brynleigh's Act*. I am writing today in full support of this critical legislation and I encourage you to pass this bill through your committee as soon as possible.

I have dedicated my career to advocating and taking care of children with refractory epilepsy. I work closely with my patients, families, and the larger school community on the importance of having a safe school environment for children with epilepsy. This important legislation will 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. This plan is typically very detailed, with clear instructions on how to recognize the seizures for a particular child and when to administer medication if needed. This plan is updated yearly and communicated directly to schools. Being able to have access to rescue medications in school and quick, proper administration by school personnel is a critical part of a seizure treatment plan for all patients.

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

Seizures are just one part of my patients' lives but do not define them. My patients, as well as all children, deserve the right to have safe environments to learn, play and grow. Senate Bill 299/House Bill 136 is one step to achieving that goal. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Please feel free to contact me at [apasupul@childrensnational.org](mailto:apasupul@childrensnational.org) or 301-765-5469 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Archana Pasupuleti, MD  
Board Certified Pediatric Neurologist and Epileptologist  
Chair, Epilepsy Foundation Professional Advisory Board Advocacy Committee

