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I am writing in support of House Bill 0136, Senate Bill 0299 Education – Public and Nonpublic Schools – Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh’s Act).

As the parent of a son who has suffered with seizures since he was 5 months old, I think it is vital for school personnel who have direct contact with and responsibility for children to be trained on how to handle seizures.

Seizures can happen at any time to any child. The American Academy of Pediatrics supports this bill because seizures are among the top 3 medical emergencies that occur at school. While some seizures are brief and mild, others are not. My son’s seizures caused massive brain damage before we were able to mostly control them with medication. When seizures happen, they are frightening to children having them, to the adults responsible for those kids and to other kids who witness them.

The most important thing is that adults in charge know what to do when they happen. While learning how to help a child having a seizure may feel to some school personnel like a burden, seeing a seizure happen and not knowing what to do is worse. It’s frightening to feel helpless in an emergency. Getting appropriate training will increase staff confidence that they know how to handle such an emergency.

Further, seizure training provides another credential for school personnel as they build their careers. The more someone knows, the more valuable s/he is to current and potential employers.

Setting up and administering the training required in this bill will obviously cost time and money. However, not training school personnel will ultimately cost more. The more often seizures happen and the more severe they are, the more likely they are to do irreversible brain damage. Providing lifelong services for

people with disabilities costs much more than preventing that damage. While most seizures are not life threatening, others are. Trained people can save a life.

I urge you to support this bill and report it out of committee favorable.