



TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Ronald N. Young

FROM: Christine K. Krone
Pam Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: February 3, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 299 – *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 Senate Bill 299.

Senate Bill 299 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 Senate Bill 299 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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