

Additional Testimony Includes:

1. Ryan E. Gill, MD

Assistant Professor

Neurology & Developmental Medicine

Director, Tuberous Sclerosis Clinic

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2. Peter B. Crino, MD, PhD Professor and Chairman

Department of Neurology

Director, Clinical Center for Adults with Neuro-Developmental Disabilities

Director, TSC Center of Maryland

University of Maryland School of Medicine

3. Lisa Gallipoli

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Kennedy Krieger Institute
Research. Treatment. Education.

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Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
January 20, 2022
SB299 - Seizure Action Plans – Brynleigh's Act
Position: Support

Dear Chairman Pinsky,

I am writing in support of the Maryland Seizure Safe School Act, or be Brynleigh's Act or SB299, which cause for state legislation to ensure all school personnel, including nurses, teachers, and volunteers, are not only prepared the can recognize and respond appropriately in officially to students experiencing seizures. Approximately 1 in 10 people will have a seizure in their lifetime, and 1 in 26 people will go on to develop epilepsy in their lifetime. There are nearly 60,000 people living with epilepsy in the state of Maryland, of which 7900 are children.

Despite the prevalence of epilepsy, seizures and seizure first-aid are still highly misunderstood by the public. Seizures in children can be particularly difficult to recognize. It is critically important that teachers and other school staff know how to recognize and appropriately respond to a seizure should one occur in the classroom, on the school bus, or other specialized school area. Timely response to a seizure is vital- delayed responses can have detrimental outcomes. Waiting for a nurse to arrive at the scene of a child having a seizure is not appropriate or safe. It is not acceptable for the school's nurse to be the only one who has been to respond to a seizure. There is only one nurse per 913 students in the state of Maryland.

As a neurodevelopmental pediatrician and Director of the Tuberous Sclerosis Clinic at Kennedy Krieger Institute, many of my patients are children and adolescents currently attending Maryland public and private schools. Far too often I have heard families share stories of their child experiencing a seizure in school and the less than ideal responses that took place.

Brynleigh's Act will ensure that all school personnel have familiarity with seizure recognition, and in doing so, we will make our children safer. Twelve other states have passed similar bills, and many other states will follow. We hope that Maryland will, as always, lead by example.

I stand with the Epilepsy Foundation in supporting this legislation.

Thank you for your time and support,

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Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 3, 2022
SB.299 - Seizure Action Plans - Brynleigh's Act
Position: Support

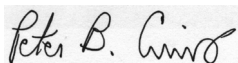
Dear Chairman Pinsky,

We are writing in support of the Maryland Seizure Safe School Act, or Brynleigh's Act or SB.299, which calls for state legislation to ensure all school personnel, including nurses, teachers, and volunteers, are not only prepared but can recognize and respond appropriately and efficiently to students experiencing seizures. Approximately 1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy in their lifetime, 1 in 10 people will have a single seizure in their lifetime, and approximately 7900 Maryland children currently have an active epilepsy diagnosis, but there is only one nurse per 913 students. It is of vital importance that school staff know how to recognize and respond to a seizure should one occur in their classroom, school bus, or specialized area. Quick response to a seizure is vital and cannot wait for a nurse to arrive. It is not enough for school nurses to be the only ones with that training. Many students will have their first seizure while in school, so this is not just a matter of following a plan that is already in place.

As Director of the Clinical Center for Adults with Neuro-Developmental Disabilities and the TSC Center of Maryland, many of our patients are adolescents and teenagers currently attending Maryland public and private schools. The need for a school safety plan for seizures is an imperative.

Brynleigh's Act will ensure that all school personnel have some familiarity with seizure recognition, and in doing so, will make all our children safer in their school environment. Twelve other states have passed similar bills, and many other states will follow. We hope that Maryland will, as always, lead by example.

We stand with the Epilepsy Foundation in supporting this legislation.



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January 25, 2022

**Epilepsy Alliance America is in strong support of HB 136 / SB 299,
also known as Brynleigh's Act.**

The Problem

Currently, nearly 8,000 students living with epilepsy in Maryland attend school without safeguards to protect them if they have a seizure on campus or the school bus. According to the CDC, students with epilepsy are more likely to miss school than the average student. Children required to leave school early due to a seizure risk being behind in their lessons and create challenges for parents and guardians who must stay home from work.

In addition to limitations due to the risk of having seizures, stigmatization and fear can impact students' mental health and keep them from embracing their education.

The Solution: Brynleigh's Act

Brynleigh's Act includes several critical components including training school personnel on seizure detection and first aid response on a biennial basis; mandating Seizure Action Plans to be on file for every student diagnosed with epilepsy or a seizure disorder and requiring those plans be available to all personnel responsible for the student; ensuring the administration of medications approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration; and a Good Samaritan clause. This legislation would greatly improve the care of students in the Maryland school system.

Epilepsy Alliance America

Epilepsy Alliance America and its member organizations prioritize training school personnel about seizure first aid. They have been the leading providers of seizure recognition and first aid training to school-aged youth, school nurses, school personnel, and first responders in each of their respective states. These programs help educate and raise awareness about epilepsy and seizure disorders while providing life-saving seizure first aid training.

**Seizure Safe Schools legislation like HB 136 / SB 299 – Brynleigh's Act –
ensures schools are equipped with the tools necessary to provide a safe and enriching
environment for students living with epilepsy and seizure disorders.**

Submitted by:

Lisa Gallipoli
Chief Operating Officer
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