



Kennedy Krieger Institute
Research. Treatment. Education.

Ryan E. Gill, MD, FAAP
Assistant Professor
Neurology & Developmental Medicine
801 N Broadway
Baltimore, MD 21205
Office: 443-923-2746
gillr@kennedykrieger.org

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,

Ryan E. Gill, MD
Assistant Professor
Neurology & Developmental Medicine
Director, Tuberous Sclerosis Clinic
Kennedy Krieger Institute
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine