



**Board of Education of Howard County
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland House of Delegates,
Ways and Means Committee
March 24, 2022**

**Board of Education
of Howard County**

**SB0299: UNFAVORABLE
Education - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh's
Act)**

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The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) opposes **SB0299 Education - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh's Act)**.

SB0299 places an unfunded mandate on schools to have two employees at each school trained in recognition, response and administration of seizure protocols and medication, one of which shall be a registered nurse, nursing assistant or technician working in the school. All school personnel with direct contact and supervision of students must also receive bi-annual training on response to seizures consistent with guidelines developed by the Epilepsy Foundation of America. Parents must collaborate with school system personnel to create a seizure action plan, which must be retained and distributed to all school personnel or volunteers responsible for supervision of that student. The bill includes civil immunity for personnel who respond in good faith to a seizure situation.

While Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) Health Services staff support the intent of this bill, existing chronic illness guidelines address seizures and other such potential student health issues comprehensively. HCPSS currently trains any staff member working with students with seizures, including bus personnel, on that student's individualized care and emergency management. This bill would be a redundancy to the current training that is already in place.

Outside of those working with a student with a known seizure disorder, staff would be concerned with the mandated assignment of emergency medication administration and identification of generic seizure symptoms to non-medical school staff. Amendments made to SB0299 before passage by the Senate do not address this concern as schools may not have more than one nurse or health assistant to be assigned.

Moreover, the unfunded mandate for school personnel training every two years beginning school year 2023-2024 was amended by the Senate to remove language allowing for an online training, instead indicating one of the two individuals trained per school must "present" an abridged version of best practice guidelines, and all personnel with direct contact and supervision of students must "attend the presentation." School systems need flexibility in training formats to accommodate personnel schedules and can implement cost and time savings when such trainings can be developed and managed centrally.

For these reasons, we urge a UNFAVORABLE report of SB0299 from this Committee.