



OHIO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee
Proponent Testimony – House Bill 606 (Seizure Safe Schools)
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December 6th, 2022

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill 606, legislation to enact “Sarah’s Law for Seizure Safe Schools” in Ohio. As the voice for Ohio’s occupational therapy providers and the students they serve, we feel this is an excellent piece of legislation.

HB 606 would require schools to develop seizure action plans for each student with a seizure disorder, such as epilepsy. Parents would play a critical role in the development of these plans, which would specify the individual needs of the child during a seizure, which medications can be administered, and when to call 911 or the child’s healthcare provider. Further, HB 606 specifies that staff must be trained in how to respond when a student is experiencing a seizure. These are easy policy changes that could have a life-saving impact on students suffering from a seizure disorder.

Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants are committed to providing high-quality services to children with special needs. Often, children with a seizure disorder have other comorbidities, including developmental delays, that require OT intervention. Occupational therapy has also been shown to have significant benefits to patients suffering from epilepsy or other seizure disorders. We want all Ohio students to have a safe and inclusive environment and HB 606 is critical to ensuring students with a seizure disorder are able to securely attend school.

In closing, I want to commend Representatives Adam Bird and Catherine Ingram for bringing this important legislation forward and I want to thank this committee for considering HB 606. Thank you.