

Ohio Chapter

INCORPORATED IN OHIO

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

December 6th, 2022

The Honorable Andy Brenner
Chairman, Primary and Secondary Education Committee
Ohio Senate
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Brenner and Members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee—

On behalf of the nearly 3,000 members of the Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing today to express our support for House Bill 606, sponsored by State Representatives Adam Bird and Catherine Ingram. This bipartisan bill would ensure children with seizure disorders in Ohio schools are safe and that staff can respond in an emergency event.

As you know, HB 606 would enact *Sarah's Law for Seizure Safe Schools Act*; seizures are the third most common school emergency. Under the bill, schools would be required to develop individualized action plans for each student with a seizure disorder and requires staff to be trained on the signs and symptoms of a seizure as well as treatment and drug administration for students experiencing a seizure. A seizure action plan will often include detailed information about each child's condition, specific actions that can be taken if the child experiences a seizure, a list of anti-seizure medications and special instructions for their use, and information on what should be considered an emergency. These are simple actions that every school can easily take to protect children who have epilepsy or another seizure disorder.

In Ohio, approximately 17,000 children have been diagnosed with a seizure disorder. Epilepsy is one of the most common seizure-inducing disorders and poses challenges for school-aged patients. Some children will develop drug-resistant seizures during their childhood while others will experience common comorbidities including intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, and attention deficit/hyper-activity disorder. Quick and evidence-based action by trained school staff could be life-saving and often can help avoid a trip to the emergency room. Thank you for your time and consideration and it is my hope that this committee will advance HB 606 before the end of the 134th General Assembly. Children with epilepsy deserve safety during the school day and this is an important piece of legislation for them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Wervev Arnold".

Melissa Wervev Arnold
Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Ohio Chapter

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