



**NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S®**

*When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.*

May 10, 2022

Chairwoman Gayle Manning  
Ohio House of Representatives  
Primary and Secondary Education Committee

Sarah's Law Testimony

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the committee:

My name is Anup Patel. I am pediatric neurologist who specializes in epilepsy and practice at Nationwide Children's Hospital. I have been in practice for 16 years. In addition, I am one of our hospital's medical director of quality.

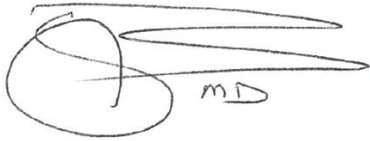
Epilepsy is diagnosed when someone has two or more seizures not triggered by a specific situation or after one seizure when it is likely more seizures will occur. Over 3.4 million people have epilepsy in the United States. One to two percent of the US population of children has epilepsy with approximately 17,000 Ohio children being diagnosed. Many complications from seizures can be prevented when people have the proper education and understanding of what to do and how to help during a seizure. Rescue medication can be given to help stop a seizure that otherwise would not stop. Lives can be saved as a result.

Knowledge is power. As a medical provider who helps take care of children with epilepsy. I provide this education to parents and caregivers that can help their child or loved one when a seizure occurs. These people do not have special credentials or need specific degrees; they need education. Preventing complications from seizures and helping treat children with epilepsy is a passion for our team at Nationwide Children's Hospital. We started to look at preventable reasons children with epilepsy presented to the emergency department (ED). When we looked at our data, over 13% of patients presented to the ED from the school. Many of these visits may have been prevented if a school personnel had the training and education on how to approach the seizure and how to implement the child's seizure action plan and rescue medication.

Our work in this area started many years ago when on review of a child who came to the ED moved our team. He had a seizure while attending school. The school nurse was not present at his school. Unfortunately, there was nobody who had education on how to address the seizure. The seizure continued past the time when he should have been given his rescue medication. Nobody there knew

how to implement his seizure action plan. He kept seizing. EMS arrived and gave him the rescue medication. However, it was well past the time and the longer one seizes, the more difficult it is to stop the seizure. He was taken to Nationwide Children's. He was given more medication. A breathing tube was placed; he was placed on a ventilator to help him breath. He was taken to the intensive care unit. All of this may have been prevented if someone at his school had proper education on seizures and epilepsy care. The bill in front of you can ensure this education happens and our children remain as safe as possible while attending school. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by 'D' and 'Patel' written in a cursive-like script. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

Anup D. Patel, MD  
Nationwide Children's Hospital  
Medical Director of Quality  
The Center of Clinical Excellence  
Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Neurology  
The Ohio State University College of Medicine