

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: December 6, 2022

Name: Sharon M DeVore

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: 4447 Tulane Road

City: Springfield State: OHIO Zip: 45503

Best Contact Telephone: 937-605-7275 Email: sharon.devore@gmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 606

Specific Issue: Enact Sarah's Law for Seizure safe schools

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 4 - 4 1/2 minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I support HB 606 to give teachers and staff the training to take care of seizure emergencies

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

HB606

12/06/2022

To enact Sarah's Law for seizure safe schools

Proponent

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Members Fedor and Sykes and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee.

Good afternoon, my name is Sharon DeVore I am the mother of a child who has died from epilepsy, the mother of a child who has epilepsy and the grandmother of an autistic grandchild who has a seizure disorder. This bill is named after my daughter Sarah Elizabeth Linardos.

Sarah began having seizures at the age of 15 years old. It effected many parts of her life over the years, as well as ours- one of those being going to school- Sarah had nocturnal seizures all her life, but her doctors' always said seizures are very uncertain. She could have them at any time.

Sending her to school every day not knowing what the day would bring, was scary as parents not knowing if and when she had a seizure, would someone know what to do? Witnessing a seizure for the first time and not being prepared renders you very helpless.

Sarah graduated High school at the top of her class and continued on to graduate from The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business in 2014. She went on to start a career in Human Resources, all the while having seizures, which for the most part was controlled by her medication. In the Fall of 2017, she began having break through seizures and on Father's Day June 17, 2018, Sarah passed away from SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy). She was 26 years old.

Sarah had so much more left to give this world. It has broken our hearts and changed our family's lives forever. No family should ever have to go through this. We have done things to honor her life and love for education by starting an educational scholarship in her name, as well as being part of this bill to honor her life as well as those children living with epilepsy.

One of Sarah's friends at her funeral wrote a letter stating, "when you were Sarah's friend you were Sarah's friend for life." I would like to think of all of the children here in Ohio with Epilepsy and seizure disorders as being Sarah's friends. I would also like to think that if someday my grandson would ever have a seizure at school, someone would know what to do.

I would like to close by reading a poem that I wrote for Sarah:

SUDEP

SUDEP steals away our shining light
And nothing again will ever seem right
This child I love has gone away
We never got another day

SUDEP steals a parent's heart
I knew that from the very start
My world was shattered apart that day
There just were no words to say

SUDEP has changed the family we know
It was hard for us to let you go
The memories and the photos in a frame
Are all we have left, life will never be the same

SUDEP steals a family's soul
Sometimes life can be so very cruel
This child had so much left to do
And in the blink of an eye her life was through

SUDEP why did you take my baby away
It breaks my heart every single day
The tears I cry for you my love
Are because you are in heaven above

SUDEP please I beg you to go away
So another family will never feel this way
I hope there is a cure to be
So there will be no more loss to see

SUDEP Angel up above
Just know that you are very loved
So shine your bright light the whole night through
And know I will always love and think about you

For my daughter Sarah Elizabeth Linardos Lost to SUDEP on Father's Day June 17, 2018 Forever Loving
and Missing My Angel, Love Mom Written by Sharon DeVore, 9/11/19