Recommendation
Pass Seizure Safe Schools legislation to ensure that schools are well-equipped with the tools necessary to provide a safe and enriching environment for students living with epilepsy and seizure disorders.

BACKGROUND
The legislation makes certain that school personnel, including nurses, teachers, and volunteers, are not only prepared but can recognize and respond appropriately and efficiently to the student experiencing a seizure. Even more importantly, the legislation safeguards physician-directed care in the school setting allowing students to access necessary and oftentimes life-saving medication. Lastly, by bringing awareness to the entire educational community, students living with epilepsy or a seizure disorder can feel safe in school, reach their full academic potential, and build meaningful friendships without fear of being stigmatized.

The model bill has four key components: requiring school personnel to complete a seizure recognition and first-aid response training; mandating that the Seizure Action Plan is made part of the student’s file and made available for school personnel and volunteers responsible for the student; ensuring that any FDA-approved medication prescribed by the treating physician is administered to the student living with epilepsy; and educating and training students about epilepsy and first-aid response.

ABOUT EPILEPSY
Epilepsy is a disease or disorder of the brain which causes reoccurring seizures. Epilepsy is made up of many different types of seizures or syndromes, affects people throughout the lifespan, and can have many different causes and associated conditions.

3.4 million Americans live with active epilepsy. While some are able to gain seizure control, 30-40% of people with epilepsy live with uncontrolled seizures despite available treatments. Delayed recognition of seizures and inadequate treatment increase a person’s risk of subsequent seizures, brain damage, disability, and death. Epilepsy imposes an annual economic burden of $19.4 billion on the country.

4 states
have passed seizure safe schools legislation as of September 2019

470,000
children living with epilepsy in the United States

11 or more days
of school missed in the past year on average for students aged 6-17 years living with epilepsy

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
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