

April 5, 2021

Chair Roger C. Chamberlain  
Senate Education Finance and Policy Committee  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3225  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Sen. Chamberlain,

We are writing to express our gratitude to you and your committee for including Seizure Smart Schools language in the Senate Education omnibus. We know that one in ten people will have a seizure during their lifetime and that here in Minnesota 7,400 children are estimated to live with epilepsy. Today, many teachers and staff lack the tools and awareness they need to recognize and respond appropriately to seizures that happen at school.

We know that students thrive when they have the support they need to be safe in school. This bill ensures that training and resources are available to the staff so that kids can reach their full academic potential. Six other states have passed Seizure Smart Schools Legislation including Kentucky, Indiana, Texas, Illinois, New Jersey, and Virginia. Together, we can ensure that Minnesota joins the list in 2021.

Our greatest thanks and appreciation for including this proposal in your omnibus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heather Besonen', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Heather Besonen**  
Associate Executive Director, Mission & Strategy  
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota