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Dear House Education Committee,

My name is Diane M Silva and I live in Coventry, RI. I am writing to express my support for House Bill-5491: for the implementation and enhancement of seizure care plans for students in public schools throughout Rhode Island. As you may know, students with seizure disorders require specialized attention and plans to ensure their safety and well-being during school hours.

Seizure disorders can vary significantly from one individual to another, and the impact they have on students can affect their ability to learn and participate in school activities. Therefore, it is crucial that every school has a comprehensive seizure care plan in place for every student with seizure disorders in order to get the medical help and attention they need.

I am the proud mom of a 15 year old daughter, Ella. Ella has complex medical needs including epilepsy. When she was in first grade at Washington Oak school in Coventry, Ella had a Clonic tonic seizure. Her fast acting one on one nurse, took Ella's rescue medication from her backpack and after 3 minutes of watching my child have a seizure, she administered Ella's life saving rectal diastat, called 911 and called my husband and I. Ella's nurse was not only trained in caring for students with seizure disorders, she was an important part of Ella's seizure care planning team, making sure Ella had her seizure medication in her backpack (which was attached to her wheelchair at all times) and knew how to act swiftly in order to give Ella her life saving medication.

Ella's individualized health plan is renewed and amended as needed every year. Her doctor's, nurses and IEP team are updated on any changes to her daily medications as well as her seizure rescue medications and seizure care plan.

Such care plans should include the following components:

1. ****Emergency Protocols****: Clear guidelines detailing the steps to take during a seizure, including the immediate response and when to contact emergency services.
2. ****Communication****: A system for informing teachers, staff, and fellow students about the student's condition and the appropriate responses required during a seizure.

3. ****Training for Staff****: Regular training sessions for teachers and staff on how to recognize and respond to seizures effectively, ensuring that they are well-prepared to assist students when necessary.
4. ****Individualized Plans****: Each student's care plan should be tailored to their specific needs, including details about the type of seizures they experience, any medications they may be taking and their rescue medication-where it is located, clear directions on how it is administered and all steps to follow during an emergency.
5. ****Collaboration with Families****: Engaging with families to ensure that they are involved in the development and implementation of the care plans, fostering a collaborative approach to the student's educational experience.

By establishing and enforcing these life saving seizure care plans, we will create a safer and more supportive environment for students with seizure disorders, allowing them to thrive academically and socially.

I urge you to prioritize the development and implementation of these care plans across Rhode Island public schools. Together, we can ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed in their educational journeys, regardless of their medical conditions.

Thank you for considering this important matter.

Sincerely,

Diane M Silva