



March 17, 2026

The Honorable Joseph McNamara
Chair, House Education Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7481

I am writing on behalf of the National Education Association of Rhode Island and our 12,000 members to express our strong support of H7481, introduced by Chairwoman Fogarty.

This legislation represents an important step in ensuring that students with epilepsy and seizure disorders receive timely, appropriate care while at school or participating in school activities. Seizures can occur without warning, and rapid intervention can make a critical difference in protecting a student's health and safety. By requiring individualized seizure action plans developed in collaboration with families, physicians, and school nurses, this bill ensures that schools are prepared, that staff understand how to recognize and respond to seizure symptoms, and that life-saving rescue medications can be administered quickly when needed. Establishing these clear protocols will help create safer learning environments and provide peace of mind to families whose children depend on coordinated care during the school day.

We do wish to raise one implementation concern that has been shared by some of our school nurse members. While the legislation appropriately allows trained staff to voluntarily administer seizure rescue medication when a nurse is not immediately available, nurses have expressed concern about being placed in the position of being responsible for the delegation or transfer of that medication to other authorized school employees. Ensuring that nurses are not held responsible for the custody or delegation process would help clarify roles and allow them to focus on their primary responsibility—providing direct clinical care and oversight for students.

With that implementation consideration in mind, we strongly support the intent of this legislation and appreciate the committee's attention to improving the health and safety of students with seizure disorders in Rhode Island's schools.

We appreciate the willingness of Chairwoman Fogarty to hear from our members over past sessions to strengthen the language of this bill so it can meet the necessary needs of creating safer school learning environments for all learners.

For these reasons, we encourage you to pass H7481.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alexander Lucini".

Alexander Lucini
Government Relations Director, NEARI