

Lisa Cataldi

From: William Murphy <wmurphy@epilepsynewengland.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 5:04 PM
To: Rep. McNamara, Joseph M.
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF H 7481

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Dear Chaiman McNamara,

On behalf the more than 11,000 individuals living with epilepsy in Rhode Island I am writing to urge your support for H 7481 *AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS*. Our hope is that the bill will pass favorably out of Committee and make it to a floor vote.

Unfortunately, I have been out on leave much of the past couple months and missed the opportunity to testify in person or submit testimony in time for the Committee's March 17th meeting.

During that time, the full Senate passed the bill (S2350) on March 24th. We hope the full House will have that same opportunity.

My statement today supplements the submitted testimony of other groups and individuals who submitted testimony in support of this legislation. These include the National Education Association of Rhode Island representing their 12,000 members, the Rhode Island Certified School Nurse Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, Rhode Island Chapter, and others. It is worth noting that in the past the School Nurses had opposed this bill. However, we worked collaboratively with them to reach acceptable language and for the past two sessions they have testified in full support of the bill.

While my statement can reiterate the same points I have made in the past in support of Seizure Safe Schools, I want to focus on key points noted in the article published last year titled "**Study Reveals Most Common Medical Emergencies in Schools**" highlighting data from the national EMS registry analyzed by researchers from Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. These points include:

- The three most common reasons schools called emergency medical services (EMS) were for neurological crises such as **seizures**, psychiatric conditions or substance abuse, and trauma related injuries. Findings can help schools prioritize readiness efforts for timely response, including staff training and availability of key medications
- The study results highlight specific target areas for training of school staff, given that timeliness of treatment in an emergency is essential.
- It also stressed that certain emergency medications should be available in the school setting, including benzodiazepine for seizures.
- The authors point out that national advocacy efforts around passing Seizure Safe Schools legislation are ongoing and effective.

You can read the full article here: [New Study Reveals Most Common Medical Emergencies in Schools | Lurie Children's](#)

Since the article was published last year stating 19 states have passed Seizure Safe Schools legislation, nine more states, and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have been added to the list. We sincerely hope this is the year Rhode Island will join that growing list.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please reach out to me.

Regards,

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