

TALKING POINTS – HB241

- Epilepsy is a disease or disorder of the brain which causes reoccurring seizures. It is a spectrum disease comprised of many diagnoses including an ever-growing number of rare epilepsies. There are many different types of seizures and varying levels of seizure control
- Epilepsy is the 4th most common neurological disorder in the U.S. and affects people of all ages throughout their lifespan.
- Approximately 1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime.
- About 1 in 10 people will have a seizure at some point in their life. (<https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/communications/features/5things.htm>)
- Over 3.4 million American are currently living with epilepsy and seizures (<https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/data/index.html>)
- Of the 3.4 million, 470,000 are children and teens living with epilepsy (<https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/data/index.html>)
- 336,000 kids have at least one seizure annually (Cui W, Kobau R, Zack MM, Helmers S, Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp M. Seizures in children and adolescents aged 6–17 years – United States, 2010–2014. MMWR. 2015;64(43):1209-14)
- To date, 12 states - Kentucky, Indiana, Texas, Illinois, New Jersey, Virginia, Washington, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Alabama, Colorado, and Minnesota - have successfully passed Seizure Safe Schools legislation.
- It is imperative that those charged with the care of children living with epilepsy and seizures have the tools and resources necessary to be able to recognize and respond appropriately and efficiently to any student experiencing a seizure
- Bringing awareness to the entire educational community, students living with epilepsy, or a seizure disorder can feel safe in school.

12 states

have passed seizure safe schools' legislation as of September 2021 (AL, CO, IL, IN, KY, MN, NE, NJ, OK, TX, VA, WA)

12 bills

introduced across the U.S. during the 2021 state legislative sessions

5,300

children living with epilepsy in Utah¹

11 or more days

of school missed in the past year on average for students aged 6-17 years living with epilepsy²

2700

students per school nurse in Utah³

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/epilepsy/data/index.html>
² <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/npao/epilepsy.htm>
³ https://www.cde.state.co.us/sites/default/files/documents/healthandwellness/download/nurnasn_ruler.pdf

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Rod Hamson
Executive Director of Community
Engagement,
Epilepsy Foundation Utah
801.440.9310
rhamson@efa.org

epilepsy.com/utah