



The Honorable Senator Abrams and Representative Steinberg
Co-Chairs, Public Health Committee
300 Capitol Ave, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg and Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Linda Wallace and I am the Executive Director for the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut. I am also the mother of a 42-year-old daughter living with epilepsy. On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut and the more than 36,000 individuals living with epilepsy in Connecticut, we urge you to **SUPPORT Raised S.B. 1083 “AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES.”, also known as “Halyn’s Law”.**

This legislation was inspired by the devastating news of the early passing of nine-year-old Halyn this past May. Halyn was a beautiful and friendly girl living with epilepsy who would brighten up everyone’s day with a simple, “Hi!”, “Rock On!”, and “I love you!”, no matter if it was the first or 100th time she met you. The Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut is working tirelessly with her father, Chris, to advocate for “Halyn’s Law” in his daughter’s memory to combat SUDEP.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut (EFCT), located in Middletown, leads the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures and save lives. We foster the wellbeing of children and adults affected by seizures through educational activities, advocacy, recreational and direct services throughout Connecticut. Epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions. Approximately 1 in 26 Americans will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime.

My interest and passion for the cause was influenced by my daughter who was diagnosed when she was seven years old. Our journey with epilepsy has not been easy. That is why I remain dedicated to helping others live successfully with the condition and committed to gaining a better understanding of the mechanisms that lead to a loss of life.

This legislation, which emphasizes education amongst the medical examiner’s community, will lead to more accurate and uniform reporting of potential SUDEP cases amongst the epilepsy community. This will result in the collection of critical data to help identify the causes and potential risk factors associated with SUDEP. Our ultimate goal is to make this data available to research institutions like the North American SUDEP Registry (NASR) to help significantly lower the instances of the SUDEP amongst the over 36,000 individuals living with epilepsy in Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important legislation and we hope that this committee will support this legislation. If you have any questions please contact Michael Finley, CT Government Relations, at 860-346-1924 or michael@epilepsyct.com .

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Wallace". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Linda" and "Wallace" being significantly larger and more decorative than the rest of the letters.

Linda Wallace, Executive Director, EFCT