



To our community:

We go farther when we go together.

You've probably heard me say that before, but today it bears repeating. Because of our collective advocacy, the Governor of Minnesota signed the Health and Human Services Budget into law which included critical legislation that increases access to comprehensive epilepsy therapies and resources. These policy wins are critical to ensuring our families, colleagues, and friends receive the care they need and deserve.

As an organization, we commit to using our influence to change policies and systems that elevate epilepsy as a public health issue and increase access to much needed healthcare. If you participated in Day at the Capitol, you probably heard of our legislative priorities for 2023: Seizure Detection Devices, Drug Formulary Committee Reforms, Rare Disease Access to Care, and Immigrant Access to Care.

ALL of our 2023 legislative priorities passed. Thank you to our relentless community who advocated at Day at the Capitol and continue to advocate in their community, every day. Thank you to Senator Morrison and Representative Bierman who chief authored the Seizure Detection Device Legislation and to all of our legislative supporters that helped make these policy changes possible.

This is a moment to celebrate how far we can go when we go together.

So, what does this new legislation mean for you and your loved ones?

Seizure Detection Device Legislation - Passage means that FDA-approved seizure detection devices will now be covered under Minnesota Medical Assistance. Seizure detection devices help reduce the risk of Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy, or SUDEP, and help increase quality of life and care for people living with epilepsy. The legislation goes into effect on January 1st, 2024 and helps expand access to care for low income families and individuals. Minnesota is the first state in the country to pass legislation expanding access and coverage in this way.

Drug Formulary Committee Reforms - Medical Assistance has a state committee that makes decisions on which drugs patients can receive with or without prior authorization. This new bill helps increase the patient perspective included on the committee, and also increases transparency in the process.

Rare Disease Access to Care - Allows individuals with a suspected rare disease to go out of their insurance network to access specialty care, quicker. It often takes people with rare diseases



around seven years to receive accurate diagnosis and treatment, and this new law will enable people to receive the care they need with fewer hurdles. We are a proud partner to Gillette Childrens' who led on this bill.

The Minnesota Inclusion Act - Ensures undocumented immigrants are not excluded from MinnesotaCare Coverage. Under this new revision, undocumented immigrants who meet the income threshold for MinnesotaCare Coverage are eligible to enroll. This important legislation means families and individuals we serve can access routine and affordable care without the risk of undue medical debt.

I am grateful to each of you who have advocated alongside the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota. We are a community that recognizes epilepsy as a public health issue and together we work to ensure no one journeys alone.

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of those impacted by epilepsy. If you have further questions about our legislative priorities this year, please [check-out our webpage](#) or connect with our Advocacy and Public Policy Manager, Sara Goodno at sgoodno@efmn.org.

In deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen Lloyd".

Glen Lloyd
Executive Director
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota